

NDEPENDI

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THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER 1996

WEATHER: Gloomy

(R 45P) 40D

THE TABLOID That funny frock



THE TABLOID

EDUCATION

20-page pull-out full of university appointments



BUSINESS & CITY Mobile phone bills to soar PAGE 22

Sensation! Tory minister does the decent thing*

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent Christian Wolman Political Correspondent

David Willetts, the Paymaster General, yesterday paid the price for writing an infelicitous memo and compounding the offence by by misleading fellow MPs as he tried to talk his way out of his difficulty

He quit as a minister immediately after the publication of a report in which he was sharply criticised by the Tory-dominated Standards and Privileges Committee which examined the allegation that he attempted to subvert a Parliamentary inquiry into the Hamilton cash for questions affair. The speed with which Mr

Willetts departed was intended to to limit the damage to the Gov-ernment but did nothing to dispel the impression that this is an administration in its death throes. Mr Willetts's replacement is likely to be announced

> made no recommendation, Mr honour and it was totally Willetts's resignation became inevitable because of its unequivocal, and strong, wording and the use of the word "dis- travesty of justice. He was pursemble" to describe his evidence. The unanimous report said that its members "were very concerned that any member should dissemble in his account. to the committee and believe that this response by Mr Willetts has substantially aggravated the original offence".

Indeed, the MPs were more angered by Mr Willetts's performance when he appeared before the committee in October than the substance of the complaint which was that in October 1994 he tried to influence the Hamilton inquiry. The feeling among the committee was

that if Mr Willetts had said "sorry", he would have received a rap on the knuckles. But the fact that he gave such an unconvincing account made a strongly worded report, and

therefore his fate, inevitable. The Government immediately mounted a damagelimitation exercise, furiously attacking the committee for its findings and describing Mr Wil-

letts as an "honourable man".

committee member Quentin Davies for the strong language of the report. The extent to which the MPs

doubted the accuracy of Mr Willetts's evidence to them is shown by the fact that the Committee has taken the unprecedented step of requiring future witnesses to give evidence to them on oath.

Mr Willetts's resignation letter said: "I am sorry my integrity "It is a grotesque and unfair has been called into question, esjudgement on a fine minister. pecially as throughout the Com-

*But then David Willetts' colleagues always thought he was a little odd

Although the Committee He will be back. He is a man of mittee hearing I told the truth." wrong," said one angry Gov-

Another whip said: "It is a sued by one man, Quentin Davies - the Tory MP who gave Mr Willetts a relentless grilling when he appeared before the privileges committee.

Downing Street said the Prime Minister had not tried to persuade him to stay on, "Mr Willetts is an bonourable man and he had said very firmly that he believed the only course for him was to resign.

The Tory MP David Martin. whose Portsmouth South constituency neighbours Mr Willetts's in Havant, blamed what he called the "boorish and bul-

However, he felt "the only honourable course is to resign". The committee criticised Mr

Willetts, then a junior government whip, for having discussed with Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, the chairman of the now-defunct members' interest committee, "a matter critical to the future deliberations of his Committee" in October 1994. Mr Willetts had discussed the Hamilton affair with Sir Geoffrey and then wrote a memo which implied that he had tried to ensure the committee either did not consider the Hamilton case, or undertook a quick inquiry that "exploited the good

Tory majority However, the committee largely cleared him of the origlying" behaviour of the Tory inal allegation, saying there

"was no clear evidence that Mr Willetts set out to influence Sir Geoffrey or that he suc-

ceeded in doing so." One senior minister, close to Mr Willetts said: "It's a travesty of justice. It is grotesque and an unfair judgement on a fine minister." Quentin Davies, the Tory MP whose public grilling of Mr Willetts at the committee bearings six weeks ago was particularly damaging to the minister, was singled out for criticism by Tory colleagues. One said: "I would not like to be

Quentin Davies tonight."
The committee, which took almost 20 hours of debate to reach its unanimous decision. was not split on party lines but a few of the Tories held out nntil yesterday against the strong wording of the report. The unanimity of the report, and its strong wording is a triumph for those MPs who have strongly resisted any outside involvement in the policing of their activities. By bringing all the members into line, it is a personal triumph for the chairman of the committee, Tony Newton. The committee is now expected to consider the case of Andrew Mitchell, another former whip and now a minister, who is also the subject of allegations that he attempted to limit the inquiry

into the Hamilton affair. John Major said last night that Mr Willetts's resignation was "consistent with the dignified way that you have con-ducted yourself. Ministers did not rule out the possibility that Mr Willetts could work for Central Office as political strategist in the election campaign and predicted that he would back on the front bench after the election. Two brains' Willetts, page 2



Risking cancer just to stay thin

Liz Hunt Health Editor

Lung cancer is set to overtake breast cancer as the biggest can-cer killer of women, the UK's leading epidemiologist warned vesterday, as new data highlighted a dramatic rise in the number of young women who

of the Supermodel is largely to blame for the increase as more girls use cigarettes for weight control - nicotine is an appetite supressant - and to relieve The teenage wannabees copy

Health educators say the cult

thin, glamorous role models such as Kate Moss who is rarely seen without a cigarette off the catwalk, and who allegedly has to qualms about taking part in shoots which use cigarettes as

Earlier this year Ms Moss and fellow model Stephanie Seymour caused an uproar in America after appearing naked and smoking - in Playboy. The Health Education Authority yesterday reported a



Up in smoke: Young female staff at The Independent who still light up regularly

5 per cent rise in smoking prevalence among 16- to 24year-old women between 1994 and 1996. A third of this age group now smokes.

This trend is a result of more smokers among the 11- to 15 age group who are continuing to smoke into young adulthood, and a simultaneous increase in "late starters". Just under 30 per cent of 16-24 year

old female smokers took up smoking after the age of 16. Traditionally, many women quit smoking or try to give it up when they start families in their late twenties and thirties, and prevalence starts to fall. But the HEA data says that around 30

per cent of pregnant women are continuing to smoke. Professor Sir Richard Doll, the scientist who first established

the link between lung cancer and smoking, and who pre-sented the new data, said that smoking-related deaths among women have been gradually

result of the historic patterns of

up the habit decades later than However, the new figures

for young women have alarmed doctors because they suggest that the long-term health effects of smoking will persist for decades to come in women, despite intense health education

efforts. Sir Richard warned that if present trends continue, more women will be dying from lung cancer than breast cancer with in five years. This is already the case in some cities such as Glasgow and Liverpool.

Five women smokers die every hour from diseases caused or exacerbated by their habit, about 42,500 annually, and up 11,000 on previous statistics published in 1991. The figure for men is 77,500.

Overall, the number of smoking related deaths annually has increased by 10,000, from 110,000 in 1991 to at least 120,000 per year. The new prorising while those among men have fallen. This is largely the jections are based on US data from a long-term study of one million smokers.

smoking with women taking ■ The HEA's "Quit Smoking for Life" campaign begins on radio 30 with a focus on women.

QUICKLY

Veterans 'poisoned' Government medical experts yesterday admitted that 54 Gulf War veterans are being exam-ined for possible pesticide poisoning.

Ripping yarns

last night speculating that ITV's bawdy romp Moll Flanders, which finished on Monday and featured 17 sex scenes, would unleash a spate of copyca bodice-rippers.

CIA's drugs deal

The CIA actively encouraged drug-trafficking in order to fund right-wing Contra rebels in Nicaragua during the 1980s, according to an investi-gation for ITV's The Big Story screened

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end to currency speculation computers and calculators well other member states over the head could yet appear on the euro if Britain decides to sign

Sarah Helm Brussels

A no-entry sign. A squashed pound A bent banana. Whatever you think of the new euro symook you'd better get used to it. The European Commission enterday universed the symbol for the single currency, in the mest drive to win public sup-Port - and affection - for monclary union. E is for euro. E is for Europe, And E is for ex-Chement. That is the message

from Brussels, though cynics

might say E is for Error. The Commission drawing of the logo comes in cheerful yellow on blue - the colours of the EU flag.

Barring strong objection to the design from member states, there now seems little doubt that the logo will be accepted as the euro's definitive symbol. Monetary union could start as early as 1999. Although the euro notes and coins will not be in circulation until 2002, the symbol is expected to start appearing on vending machines,

before. Prices on goods will also rules which will govern the sinnational currency prices, ahead of the launch, so consumers can get used to calculating values.

Publication of the symbol on the eve of the European Union Dublin summit is clearly intended to give a boost to the drive towards the single currency and add a sparkle to complex negotiations on the euro-zone.

be printed in euro alongside the gle currency. But while technical disputes continue, leaders will nevertheless be able to assert that the euro is already ready to take its place alongside the £ the \$ and the Y as a world-

In another sign of rapid progress, the design of the euro notes is to be unveiled in Dublin on Friday. After intense debate Germany, loathe to see its it has been decided to leave own dear DM disappear into space for a small national symbistory, is at logger-heads with bol, which means the Queen's the New Year.

history, showing, for example, famous Europeans and monuments. Preparation for the curo coins, by Europe's mint masters, is also well underway, and the European Commission plans to launch a competition for the design of the coin faces in

up for a single currency.

The note designs will be

based on different European

themes. The drawings will de-

pict different ages in European

One word from Clarke causes Major spasm

currency. This was summed

up in a question by the Liberal Democrat, Malcolm

Bruce. If, therefore, the

circumstances were right,

would the Chancellor be in

favour of a single currency?

The answer (which caused a

tiny spasm to pass across the

PM's countenance) was yes.

No wonder the benches

Half of them actively believe

behind Mr Clarke seethed.

that there is a German

conspiracy to dominate

Sketch writers must always be careful of phrases such as "historic speech" and "watershed". In newspapers there are wiser and betterpaid people whose job it is to decide such things. But yesterday I think I witnessed a water-sheddy, turningspeech thing, and I want readers to remember that it was I who told them so.

When Ken Clarke stood to open the debate on Europe there were twice as many Tories in the Chamber as members of the combined opposition. The Prime Minister himself was present. along with all the most active Europhobes and pro-Europeans. This was not a debate between the Government and Opposition, but a special session of the Conservative Party

Bid for

new

office

of state

Labour should raise the status

of the Secretary of State for Ed-

ucation by moving him or her

into No.9 Downing Street, one

of the party's senior policy ad-

visers suggested yesterday.
Professor Michael Barber,

dean of new initiatives at Lon-

don University's Institute of

Education, said in his inaugur-

al lecture that Tony Blair must make education a great office

of state in order to fulfil his party conference promise that his

priorities would be "education.

should be expected to stay in

post for the entire Parliament and might be placed second af-

ter the Prime Minister and be-

fore the Chancellor of the

Exchequer in the press release

announcing a new Cabinet,

"Perhaps like the Chancellor.

the Secretary of State for Life-

long Learning should have a

house next door to No.10. Who

On being moved to the De-

partment of Education from

Environment in 1986, Kenneth

Baker remarked that it was

"like moving from the manag-

You cross the river and move

Though most of us would see

any move away from Arsenal as

promotion, Professor Barber

commented, Mr Baker clearly

Under Labour, he said, there

should be an end to the feud-

ing which had bedevilled the re-

lationship between the Prime

Minister and the Education

Secretary since the time of But-

Shirley Williams over his Ruskin

speech on standards: the Edu-

cation Department was so an-

gry that it leaked the speech to

Callaghan had rowed with

er's job at Arsenal to Charlton

down two divisions,"

had a different view.

ler and Churchill.

lives at No.9?" he asked.

Professor Barber said.

education and education." The new Education Secretary

Judith Judd Education Editor

1.37.2.7

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The benches behind Ken seethed. Half of them believe

dominate Europe

there is a German conspiracy to

conference. Tony Blair (who has a country to think about running) stayed away. Mr Clarke's speech was frank, clear, intelligent and almost heart-breakingly brave. It also cannot possibly be what John Major wanted to hear. Constantly interrupted by the large gang of Redwoodites and former whether the state of the s

and former whipless ones, the Chancellor's exegesis took the form of balancing the advantages of a single currency against the disadvantages: "upsides and downsides". And the upsides were very good, for they included low

inflation, enhanced

interest rates. All the

circumstances of the

Europe, and that the single currency is the Nineties version of the V2. In their own minds they are fighting a battle very nearly as important competitiveness and lower as that which their fathers the Captain Mainwarines and downsides, however, were Private Pikes - fought 50 years couched in terms of the ago. Mr Clarke's predecessor. Norman Lamont, angrily quoted Bundesbank officials establishment of a single

Arts in arms: Darcy Bussell and Placido Domingo at the Royal Opera House, in advance of its first fundraising Gala

Gulf War vets examined

for pesticide poisoning

ed the Gulf medical assess-

ment team until last month,

reviewed more than 800 sets of

medical notes to look for vet-

erans who might be suffering

from organophosphate poison-

recalled and are being re-ex-

amined by the medical assess-

ment team before going for sophisticated tests at the Insti-

tute of Neurology. Group Capt

Fifty-four veterans have been

as saying that a single currency must lead to a loss of national control over tax and other fiscal policy. "Hans Tietmayer does not speak for Germany, said Mr Clarke. "And you don't speak for us!" a Tory shouted back.

Sir Peter Tapsell did speak for them, however, when he took Ken to task for not realising that a single currency was "part of a bureaucratic, centralising, socialising, federal state* Many puzzled over the socialising, since outside the Calvinist Church socialising is not considered to be a sin. But we knew what he meant.

Meanwhile, Bill Cash tried vainly to intervene. Every time he stood he did up the button on his jacket, and every time he sat down thwarted - he undid it again.

It was a metaphor for futility; like the stone of Sisyphus, that button seemed destined never to attain resolution. When, finally, the Chancellor allowed the button's owner to make his point, one almost expected Mr Cash to unzip his trousers by way of celebration.

And what emerges from all this? Why do I leave off my

usual facetiousness to argue that this exchange was so important? Because Mr Clarke told the Tories that, if things go the way he wants them to, he will be pushing to join a single currency. And that is exactly what they cannot stand. Now, both sides would rather see a. Labour government than relent. The Europhobes then

get their chance to run the party, and Ken Clarke will see his policy carried through. By

significant shorts

Hollywood blamed for violence

Hollywood's obsession with macho action films, rather than lax censorship controls in Britain, is to blame for the high levels of big-screen violence, Michael Howard, Home Secretary, was told

yesterday. The British Board of Film Classification was powerless to exert influence on the money-spinning violence culture personified by the films of Amold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone, said director James Ferman.

The BBFC's report to Mr Howard follows the launch by Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of State for National Heritage, of an action plan against violence on television.

Mr Ferman said gratuitously violent scenes could be cut out of films and videos, but such cuts could not change the culture of the film if it was dedicated to

Knives Bill wins backing

A Labour MP's Private Member's Bill on combat knives got full Government backing. The Bill, sponsored by Jimmy Wray, the MP for Glasgow Provan, will allow the police to stop and search people in specified areas for 24 hours if they believe they may be carrying knives, and creates a new offence of marketing a knife suitable for use as a weapon for inflicting injury on a person, in a way which suggests "combat" or aggressive use, Patricia Wynn Davies

Retrial for gun PC

The Old Bailey trial of an armed police officer accused of murdering a suspected car thief was halted for legal reasons and the jury discharged. PC Patrick Hodgson, 49, will face a retrial next year. He has denied murdering 38-yearold David Ewin who was shot. in Barnes, south-west London last year.

Buxton beauty

The Crescent in Buxton. Derbyshire, once rated the most dilapidated Grade I listed building in England, has begun a new lease of life, spruced up at cost of £1.5m.

The building, designed by John Carr of York in 1779 and built by the Duke of Devonshire was on the verge of collapse five years ago. The campaign to save it involved the first and only compulsory purchase order

by the Department of National Heritage and the first 100 per cent repairs grant by English Heritage, Itis now owned by High Peak District and Derbyshire County councils. Stephen

Rape' officers remandêd

Six army officers appeared in court charged with raping a woman on a campus where they were studying. The six, who serve with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, were charged with raping the 23-year-old between 27 and 28 May this year at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, near Swindon, Wiltshire. They were remanded in custody by magistrates at Wantage, Oxfordshire.

BBC plea on Murdoch's digital TV

Rupert Murdoch's digital software company, News Datacom, should be obliged to license its set-top box :== technology to all manufacturers and broadcasters, if Britain is to avoid handing him a monopoly in digital pay television, the BBC said,

In its final effort to convince the Government change its policy on the regulation of digital decoders, the BBC warners that without mandatory licensing, there was a risk that the market for digital television, including 200 channels of television, electronic banking and home shopping, would be

dominated by one player.
This is the last chance to create an orderly, open market in digital TV where everyone will benefit."
Patricia Hodgson, BBC
director of policy and
planning, said. "But the government's latest proposals still risk creating uncertainty for competition and consumer." Mathew Horsman

Orangemen's hard-liner

The Orange Order chose a religious hard-liner as its new. Grand Master, increasing apprehensions that next July could see a repeat of last year's traumatic Drumcree marching controversy. Robert Saulters, who was previously Belfast County Grand Master, was elected to the Order's top job by 200 members of its Grand Lodge. He succeeds the Rev Martin Smyth MP, who had been criticised for not taking a strong enough line over parades. David McKittrick

Independent writers win

Three Independent writers scooped prizes in the Norwich Union Healthcare and Medical Journalists Association Medical Journalists awards

Glenda Cooper, consumer and social affairs reporter, shared a combined second and third prize for an article on schizophrema with Kita Carter, a freelance who was recognised for a feature on morphine, Rob Stepney, another regular contributor,

was commended. Jolyon Jenkins took first prize for a report for BBC Radio's File on Four. Liz Hunt

Adoptive mother killed

A two-year-old boy was shaken to death by a woman who was caring for him is she awaited the go-ahead to adopt him, a court head Angela Harris, 40, shoot Patrick McKenzie so hast that he suffered brain damage from which he dis Leeds Crown Court was told. Harris, of Yeadon, near Leeds, denies murde

Helping hu

A flashing green jellifish is helping the fight against cancer. The fluorescent protein which the creature flashes on and off as a defence mechanism is being used to light up parts of living cells. By incorporating the genes into the DNA of human cells, it is possible to give human proteins a fluorescent "tag" and as a result scientists can see how individual proteins in a cell move when the cell divides. Glenda Cooper

'Clever chap' with a Pride that led to run of bad luck minister's fall

Chief Political Correspondent

Pride was probably what caused the downfall of David Willetts because he tried to argue his way out of the allegation that he had tried to fix a select committee inquiry report.

Labour and Tory members of

the 11-man committee said if he had apologised, he would have been let off with a light reprimand, and his career would have been intact.

But it was a single word -"dissembled" – that sealed his

When he read the report at 1.30pm in his office overlook-ing Whitehall in the Cabinet Office, he decided he had no option but to resign. He saw the Prime Minister at around 3pm but senior party sources said his

mind was made up. The feroc- tempt of the House. Some ity of the report stunned MPs Labour MPs suspected that it on all sides. They queued at the vote office in the members' lobby to get hold of the 60-page report. Within minutes, nearly 100 had been handed out. It had been hammered out over near-

Government medical experts

yesterday admitted that 54 Gulf

War veterans are being exam-

ined for possible pesticide poi-

soning. Up to 200 others have

ilinesses which doctors cannot

MPs during oral evidence giv-

en to the Commons defence se-

lect committee which is

examining Gulf War syndrome.

forces minister, admitted on

Nicholas Soames, the armed

Tuesday that Parliament had for concern that something se-

been misled over the use of riously went wrong." Following

The admissions were made to

Dissemble: v 1.intr. conceal one's motives; talk or act hyp-ocritcally; 2 tr. a disguise or conceal (a feeling, intention, act etc) b (as dissembled adj.) simulated, pretended... (Concise Oxford Dictionary).

ly a week of meetings by the committee. The "killer paragraph" - that in future the committee would take evidence on oath - was agreed at an ear-

The Tories suggested that he should be charged with con-

was put up to be knocked down, to let Mr Willetts off the hook. It was rejected on the ground

the Gulf. He announced a £1.3

million study to investigate ill-

nesses suffered by Gulf veter-

Dr Edgar Buckley, assistant

under secretary at the MoD,

that an investigation into the ac-

tion of staff who caused minis-

ters to mislead Parliament

ing Parliament, we were mis-

leading ourselves, he said.

There are prima facie grounds

"We were not just mislead-

would report in February.

The committee was told by

that it was outside their remit. But the fatal word "dissembled" was inserted at the end, on Monday night, in scenes of acrimony and high drama. Locked in disagreement in a committee room of the Commons, Labour MPs had suggested they should say they had found Mr Willetts's evidence to the committee unac-

ceptable. Quentin Davies, the Tory MP whose tenacious questioning of Mr Willetts in public session was blamed by ministers for inflicting the damage, suggested they should say they were concerned Mr Willetts should "dissemble" in his account.

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

David Willetts has been woefully unlucky and, for such a clever chap, woefully stupid. He was unlucky in that the memorandum that brought his downfall would normally never have been made public..

The memo would not have come to light had it not been for Neil Hamilton's ill-fated libel action against The Guardian newspaper for alleging that he had taken cash to ask questions on behalf of Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods. It was only when the case collansed that the memo was leaked to the press and subse-

quently sent to the Speaker.

Mr Willetts is famously clever, his large pate having earned him the epithet of "two brains", but he is not necessarily very smart. Indeed, a smarter fellow might not have put down in a memo the result of the conversation with Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, chairman of the Commons committee investigating the Hamilton affair. Certainly, Mr Willetts was over eager to please the senior whips

discovery of the error, Group were ill. He also disclosed that "There are some people who Captain Bill Coker, who head- 20 per cent of the veterans ex- may well be dead before the re-

symptoms that cannot be ex-

"It is this group that presents the greatest problem," he said.

"If you want to apply the term

syndrome, you could to this group." Michael Colvin, the

committee chairman, said there

lenoth of time investigations into

the health of Gulf veterans

Coker revealed two of the 10 He underlined anxieties that should "cut their losses" and people who dusted Iraqi pristine £1.3 million study would make an interior compensa-

oners with delousing powder take a further three years. tion payment to veterans.

have taken so far.

amined - almost 200 - have sults of the survey are known

were deep concerns about the nored - by the Ministry of De-

he said.

by showing his diligence. He had only arrived in Parliament as MP for the safe seat of Havant in 1992 and was made a whip in the July 1994 reshuffle. Mr Willetts is not the sort of chap who should be made a whip. He is likeable and has none of the required bullyboy characteristics.

He clearly was not cut out for the job. Indeed, after a couple of years, he was moved to the Treasury as Paymaster Gener-al, where he would have served in relative obscurity had it not been for that fateful memo. Mr Willetts came to Parlia-

Photograph: David Rose

and that is totally unacceptable,"

Bruce George, the deputy chairman, said: "This money

hardly amounts to a row of

beans. It is not remotely com-

mensurate to the suffering and

the problems created - and ig-

He asked Mr Buckley to pass

on a request that ministers

should "cut their losses" and

ment as one of the Tories' best original thinkers from a career in think tanks and writing books and pamphlets, Born 40 years ago in Moseley, Birmingham, He spent five years as director of studies at the Cen-tre for Policy Studies and was in Mrs Thatcher's policy unit from 1984 to 1986.

His reputation of cleverness did not really help Mr Willetts at the committee hearing. His erudite hairsplitting did nothing to endear him to the members of the committee which reprimanded bim. The report makes it clear Mr Willetts would have been better served by coming clean, rather than trying to box clever. That was his worst act of stupidity.

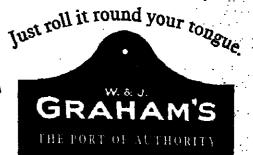
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GRRR AHA MMM'S PORT





The old primness: Jane Austen adaptations, like ITV's Emma, may

be a thing of the past as raunchier classics gain popularity

Bodice-ripping challenges Jane Austen TV cult

Marianne Macdonald ledia Correspondent

The television community was last night speculating that ITV's bawdy romp Moll Flanders, which finished on Monday and featured 17 sex scenes, would unleash a spate of copycat hodice-rippers.

For its triumphant ratings success has single-handedly broken the taboo that costume drama is best a la Jane Austen: understated, genteel and very definitely sex-free.

The mid-Nineties reinterpretation of the genre, as demonstrated by Moll, has demolished that theory. Virgins can be replaced with wenches, ballrooms with brothels. Chastity is out. Sex, even incest, is in.

It is the last bastion to fall in television drama, and contrasts with the latest clean-up campaign by Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, to clean up television's act. The four-hour adaptation of

Daniel Defoe's bodice-ripper about a woman who marries five times, once to her brother, works as a pickpocket and thief and is finally transported to America won 13 million viewers.

That contrasts with the BBC elegant drama, also just finished, of

fell Hall. With the emphasis on avoiding sex rather than having it, the dark story of a virtuous and unhappy wife attracted four million fewer

The moral is that sex and violence sells; and that costume drama, long seen as the special preserve of tinkling teacups, honourable aristocrats grand country houses, has moved into new territory.

The approach is even mirrored in the Moll Flanders video of Granada's production, which hit the shops on Tuesday. Unlike the Austen spinoffs of coffee-table books with lavish pictures and diaries, the Moll video offers a chance to see the steamy sex scenes which were left on the cutting room floor.

The taste for bursting corsets has not gone unnoticed. Yesterday Nick Elliott, ITV's controller of drama, said the bodice-ripping element had undoubtedly attracted viewers. "There was a pleasantly tasteful element of sex and nudity and I know many men positively enjoyed Alex Kingston taking her top off from time to time. Don't let's beat about the bush, it was very pleasant."
Granada agreed. "Moll attracted

higher audiences than any other recent costume drama, including Pride Anne Bronte's The Tenant of Wild- and Prejudice, and viewers that

might not otherwise have watched," a spokesman said jubilantly. So now the barriers are down, can

we really expect a flood of bodicerippers on television? Well, not yet, but executives have swung away from light and elegant period dramas with a vengeance.

Over the next few months viewers can look forward to stronger meat. ITV will show Jane Eyre - attempted bigamy, a madwoman in the attic and the suffering of a bullied orphan- and Rebecca, that tale of adultery and arson.

Also scheduled is Far From the Madding Crowd, which features insanity, murder and marital neglect. and the swashbuckling adaptation of a Robert Louis Stevenson short story, Ebb Tide, with Robbie Coltrane.

The BBC mirrors the approach with adaptations of Joseph Contad's Nostromo, about a struggle to seize a naul of silver in South America. Wilkie Collins' The Moonstone, about the theft of a diamond, and hanhoe, a tale of kidnap and tournament spiced with witchcraft.

But producers still scouring the classics for bodice-rippers will find plenty of choice. The 18th century, which produced Moll Flanders, has much to offer. From Smollett to Richardson, possibilities abound.



The new bawdy: Moll Flanders, Daniel Defoe's tale of a woman man ried five times, has scored a hit, with 13m viewers

Five of the best ripping yarns

Bodice-rippers ripe for adapting?

Clarissa by Samuel Richardson Provoked complaints on its 1748 publication about its indecency and would be a scriptwriter's nightmare to adapt, but a racy epistolary tale about the dishonourable rake Lovelace's courting of the chaste Clarissa Harlowe - and how he finally rapes her.

Roxana by Daniel Defoe

Similar to Moll Flanders and by the same author, but still one to bear in mind. Roxana, the beautiful

serted by her extravagant brewer husband and passes from one protector to another getting extremely rich on the way. But unlike Moll, she comes to a bad end and dies

Amelia by Henry Fielding Set in a London of almost unrelieved squalor and violence, the hero begins the story in Newgate prison; and turns to gambling to the dis- is under siege from the rich son of tress of Amelia, his virtuous wife.

Fanny Hill by John Cleland daughter of French refugees, is de- Otherwise known as Memoirs of a

Woman of Pleasure, this early bestseller resulted in the author being summoned before the Privy Council for indecency. A breathless account of the less respectable side of life in the mid-18th century.

Mary Barton by Mrs Gaskell A love story set amid the crushing working-class poverty of Manchester in the 1840s. Mary Bara factory owner. When he is shot dead, suspicion falls on her other poorer, suitor, Jem, who faces the

Willie Rushton, humorist, satirist, artist, dies at 59

David Lister Arts News Editor

THE STIME

Philips

Willie Rushton, the comedian. satirist, author, actor and a man who listed his recreations as "losing weight" and "gaining weight" has died after a heart operation at the age of 59.

Rushton one of the architects of the Sixties satire boom, cofounding the magazine Private Eye and appearing on the seminal TV programme That Was The Week that Was alongside David Frost in 1962.

But his versatility was greater than many of his more lauded colleagues. It extended from a stage debut in Spike Milligan's The Bed-Stating Room in 1961 to the authorship of best selling novels and such reference works as How To Play Football: The An Of Dirty Play, Pigstick-

ing: A Joy For Life.
On radio he broadcast in 27 series of the anarchic game show I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue. As a cartoonist he ranked among the best. Examples of his work are at present on display at the National Portrait Gallery. Rushton's genial demeanour

and quickfire repartee made his chunky, bearded frame a staple on television comedy and quiz shows from the Sixties onwards. And in the last few years be had been enjoying a spirited comeback as a stand up comedian in a double act with his fellow comic Barry Cryer. Their show, Two Old Fans, delighted

audiences at the Edinburgh



Rushton: Most talented member of Private Eve generation Festival and on subsequent na-

tionwide tours. Rushton, who was married with three sons, died at the Cromwell Hospital in London after a short illness, his agent Roger Hancock said. It is un-

derstood he had a heart oper-

ation, but suffered a reaction. His comic leanings began among a starry generation at Shrewsbury School where he fell

Richard Ingrams, Paul Foot and Christopher Booker. A lack of Latin O Level prevented Rushton from joining his friends at Oxford University.

But he rejoined them at Private Eye where he contributed cartoons as well as writing. On That Was The Week That Was he mimicked Harold Macmillan with a patrician accent he was to use to great effect in many in with a group that included his future impersonations. Last future Private Eye co-founders night Sir David Frost paid trib- man, who laughed a lot."

went on getting wittier and funnier with every passing

In November 1963 he took political satire out of the studio and on to the hustings, standing at the Perth and Kinross byelection against the Prime Minister, Lord Home, who needed a seat in the House of Commons. Rushton only managed 45 votes, but addressed a large public meeting where he denounced "the completely arrogant way Lord Home has moved into Downing Street."

Richard Ingrams said he was "terrifically shocked" by his friend's death. He said: "I think he was the most talented of my contemporaries by far. He had a brilliant spontaneous wit. I knew Willie from the age of 12, when we first started doing jokes together and he was a very good cartoonist even then. He was a brilliant cartoonist, a born cartoonist who had no training. It was completely nat-

"He was very well adjusted to things. When he became dia-betic a few years ago, he took it in his stride and said that he was grateful because it made him give up drinking."

A keen cricketer, Rushton was a member of the Lord's Taverners. Yesterday, the comedian Barry Took remarked: "I can't imagine the Lord's Taverners or British life without him. He was a decent honest

Make someone happy this Christmas





The chic dinner party set no confectionery buyer at Seulonger take a bottle of wine with longer take a bottle of the bost.

"It's more thoughtful than a The popularity of cookery television programmes and books has helped fire diners' imaginations and they are now taking a bottle of good olive oil or

expensive vinegar.

"More and more people are buying olive oil as a gift so that the cook or the person who's keen on cooking has something different to have in the kitchen," according to Tony Greenwood, the grocery and

bottle of wine which is a little "It's a slightly different idea

and a good cook would want to have more than one oil in their kitchen."

Dinner guests might pay as much as £18 for their chosen token of appreciation, which would probably be a tasteful bottle of single estate extra virgin olive oil from northern Italy.

But the really generous might tle of 40-year-old balsamic vine-gar, costing £50 for 10cl. designed as a gift. It tastes good and it looks good," said Mr

The sky is the limit so far as balsamic vinegar is concerned. like the vinegar you put on your chips," said Mr Greenwood.
"With the very old vinegar the flavour is such that you almost need to use a pipette for it." Another new gift trend -though rather less costly - is

panettone, the Italian bread-like

"They have always been decide to splash out on a bot- beautifully presented and are good and it looks good," said Mr Greenwood

But the surprise sell-out food It's dark and sweet and nothing gift is another Italian cake called Veneziana Farcita. Costing £5.99, it contains zabaglione, a custard made with Marsala wine, and is made in Castelfranco, near Venice.

After the store conducted a tasting, all the cakes on the shelf were sold within

http://www.boots.co.sk

The Right Chemistry

Europhiles fight back: Treasury fights to meet currency criteria

Jiggery-pokery used to squeeze into EMU

Anthony Bevins and Diane Coyle

The Treasury has been accused of using "tricks" to help keep the Budget deficit below the financial ceiling set for membership of the European single curren-

Economists estimate Continental style "wheezes" have helped trim the figure for the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement by more than £3.5bn.
That is enough to reduce the government deficit as a share of GDP from 2.9 per cent - un-comfortably close to the 3 per cent Maastricht ceiling – to a rel-atively impressive 2.5 per cent.

The chief accounting ploys were classing the sale of the student loan book and the sale of Ministry of Defence homes, to-gether worth £2.2bn in 1997/98, as negative spending, reducing the Government's planned ex-

"All governments are doing these things, and we are no different from the others. Perhaps just a little bit better," said Peter Warburton, an economist at Robert Fleming in the City of

But in a BBC radio interview earlier, Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, complained that other countries cheated as they tried to fit into the financial terms created for single currency membership.

The public accounts of

most countries have, I am sure, had jiggery pokery in them from time to time, certainly careful presentation - except of course that of Her Majesty's Treasury in this country...
"People have made the

books look better by putting things in which don't count." But one senior government source told the The Independent

that it was accepted within the Treasury itself that some of its

In the Commons, Mr Clarke said at the start of a two-day debate on Europe that it was not enough to meet the single currency entry terms - "convergence criteria" - in just one particular year.

They must demonstrate a and sustainable convergence. That is the key. That is what the Treaty says, and that is the basis on which decisions about who should join Economic and Monetary Union must be taken. It is certainly the basis upon which this Government would take its decisions and cast any votes at the relevant time.

In a powerful speech, the Chancellor tried to reassure the Tory sceptics - who continually intervened to inject doubt and concern about the threat of

a federal Europe.
The hostility of his own side

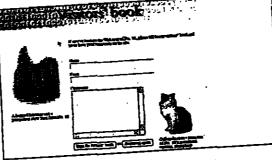
own accounting devices were was made clear in interventions by a series of backbenchers - from the former Chancellor, Norman Lamont, Tony Marlow, Sir Peter Tapsell, Bill Cash and

The Shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, told the House that while Mr Clarke had spoken with enthusiasm, passion credible commitment to durable and conviction, the question was whether he was speaking for the Conservative Party, the Gov-

ernment, or the Prime Minister. He pointed out that when the Chancellor had addressed the advantages of a single currency, there had been jeers from his own side; cheers when he had sooken of the disadvantages

While the Government bas ensured that there should be no vote at the end of the two-day debate tonight, Tory rebels might take the opportunity of a vote on European fisheries policy, on Monday, to stage yet another protest against Europe.

Welcome to 10 Downing Street. I hope you will enjoy your Internet tour of this old, black-fronted house which has been the Prime Minister's address since 1735. I think you will be surprised to see the marvellously historical rooms behind the most famous front door in Britain. But this site also opens a new door to what the British Government does, news from No. 10 and other Government Web sites. Thank you for visiting No. 10. The Rt Hon John Major MP Prime Minister



Key to Number 10: A greeting to surfers (top) and a farewell from Humphrey (above). Mr Major with children at Downing Street (below) Photograph: PA



Major enters his own virtual world

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

John Major last night began life in a virtual world after opening 10, Downing Street as a World-Wide Web site on the

The Prime Minister has recorded a welcome message for downloading at the new Number 10 site, which opens with the familiar black doorway with policeman outside. Surfers on the Internet are ffered a history of the

Premier's official London residence, with information on State Rooms. Recent speeches by Mr Major, biographies of recent prime ministers and the Cabinet, the Queen's Speech

through Parliament, with press releases, are also available. Mr Major marked the launch by inviting pupils from The Donai Martyrs School in

M MARIE

Uxbridge, west London, into Downing Street for an Internet link with their classmates. Asked who was the most remarkable person he had ever met, Mr Major said: "If I answer that I will effend a thousand people, so I'll keep that revelation for later years."

The tour finishes with the Number 10 visitors' book, and

Downing Street officials said Mr Major may open an e-mail address where the public could send him messages. The Internet address for Number 10 is: http://www.number10.gov.uk/.

One Nation Tories show their teeth

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

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Tory MPs led by David Hunt, the former Cabinet minister, yesterday called on John Major to keep the Conservative Party on the centre ground of British politics and to reject the "ideological tendency" on the Tory

Conservative Mainstream, which is supported by a number of ministers, including Nicholas Soames, the Minister for the Armed Forces, issued an alternative manifesto to counter the demands of the Eurosceptics for Mr Major to fight the coming election on their manifesto. It will be seen as a clear warning to the party leadership that

any move to the right would threaten a backlash from the centre-left of the party. They warned: "Our party is more likely

to be successful in future if, as in most periods in the past, it remains a party of all the people and not beholden to any sectional interest or narrow ideological tendency."

The manifesto was backed by Sir Geof-frey John Smith, vice-chairman of the Macleod group, and drawn from a conference in the summer at which the speakers included John Gummer, one of the leading pro-Europeans in the Cabinet; Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, and Ian Taylor, another strongly pro-European minister at the Department of Trade

Other supporters include: Andrew Rowe, Peter Bottomley, Peter Butler - the parlia-mentary aide to Kenneth Clarke, Robin Squire, Mark Robinson, Sir Jim Lester, Nigel Forman and Quentin Davies, seen as the leading lights on the centre-left of the Tory

The group was created by Mr Hunt, for-mer Secretary of State for Wales, to bring together One Nation Tories and members of the centre-left Madeod group. They could become important dissidents, if the Tory leadership was seized by the right wing. The Chancellor was last week alleged to have warned in a private lunch that a lurch to the right, and rejection of the European single currency could lead to a split in the Tory Party.

Angry looks greet new Tory poster

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

The Conservative Party chairman was accused of "lies, halftruths and smears" last night after the launch of a new "demon eyes" campaign apparently featuring both Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown.

The party's latest poster is adorned with the same pair of red eyes used in a widely criticised campaign against Labour, plus a pair of orange eyes which

are equally menacing.
Its slogan, "Lib Dem-Labour

Double Danger" suggests that the Tories fear an alliance of the two opposition parties after the election.

The Liberal Democrats' chair of campaigns, Nick Harvey, wrote to Brian Mawhinney last night complaining that he had made false claims about the party's policies.

A leaflet bearing the new image and handed out in the West Country said a vote for the Liberal Democrats was a vote for the legalisation of drugs such as cannabis, for a United States of Europe, for Brussels control of immigration and defence, for higher taxes and for weak,

multi-party government.

The party has agreed to set up a Royal Commission which would consider decriminalising cannabis, but would not legalise it. However, its conference has voted in favour of the move in the past. Last night, Mr Harvey said

his party would retain European veto on immigration and de-

would offer a strong government based on consensus.

"Lies and smears demean the political debate and are not enough to save Tory skins. Brian Mawhinney must correct the lies, withdraw the mistaken attacks and recall the disgraceful posters and literature im-

A Conscivative Party spokesman said the points made all related to aspects of Liberal Democrat policy.

"The Liberals are running scared on this because they have been found out. These points will be driven home to the electors in the West Country in the weeks ahead," he said.



New Tory target: The Liberal Democrat leader Paddy fence, would cut some taxes and Ashdown yesterday

'Fat cats' take breakfast to improve their image

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

The first meeting of the lobby group for the "fat cats" of privatised industries takes place this morning over breakfast at London's most expensive hotel, the Lanesborough, next to Hyde Park.

Over 50 chief executives and chairmen of privatised are expected to attend the gathering organised by Sir Colin Marshall, of British Airways, and John Neill, of Unipart. They say the meeting has been planned in order to give a better image to the privatised industries following years of bad

In a letter inviting the executives to the meeting, the two wrote: "Despite its evident suc- Colin's office and mine have

cess, with clear benefits to the British economy as well as to consumers and employees, privatisation has attracted widespread criticism because of danously flawed perceptions. We think the time has come to redress the balance of public Opinion."

The executives of the electricity, water and gas companies have all been invited, along with BT and other privatised companies such as Railtrack. When news of the proposed

meeting leaked out, it was suggested that the lobby group would campaign against Labour's windfall tax for privatised companies. However, in a second letter sent last week, Mr Neill stresses that this is not the case. He wrote: "Both Sir

made it quite clear that the sub-ject [of a windfall tax] was most definitely not on the agenda of the meeting. We have no in-tention that the efforts to improve the public image of privatised companies should include lobbying against plans for the windfall tax."

A spokesman for BA said yesterday that the intention of the meeting was to improve the overall standing of the privatised industries and "their contribution to UK plc".

They are an important part. of BA's customer base and they have a vital role in teaching the world about privatisation, he

The lobbying group as yet has no name and no decision has yet been taken over how often it will meet



London gets gridlocked into its worst jam for years yet Britain's obsession with the car grows unabated

An undying love that is driving us to distraction

Glenda Cooper

Despite increased pollution, congestion and in the wake of the worst traffic jam in London for 16 years, the British are still unwilling to hand in their car keys and get on the bus. Our love affair with the car

continues to grow according to a new report from the London School of Economics, with car owners now spending an average £52 a week on their vehicle - more than on clothes and only slightly less than on food.

The report commissioned by the AA was unveiled only hours after 250,000 drivers were brought to a standstill for eight hours on Tuesday.

A lorry driver was responsi-ble for the gridlock that paralysed much of east London after his vehicle became wedged beneath an overhead sign at the entrance to the Blackwall Tunnel. He had ignored warning signs that told him the crane on the back of his lorry was too high for the tunnel's 13ft 4in height re-

It hit an overhead gantry carying warning signs about lane changes and the reinforced steel frame crashed down on to him. He escaped unharmed but thousands of other drivers were stuck as the rush-hour jam spread over a seven-mile area.

Police were yesterday refusing to name the driver responsible, dubbed "a total prat" by the Automobile Association, for his own safety. Some drivers were forced to abandon their vehicles and drivers in the Rotherhithe Tunnel, the closest Thames crossing to the Blackwall Tunnel had to breathe through handkerchiefs and scarves as fumes from the stationary traffic built

دد: دار

Light

Despite incidents like this, the LSE report estimates that car ownership will continue to grow because more people want to drive and as prosperity grows, more will be able to afford to.

More than two in three households now have at least one car, and in homes where the head has a job more than half has two or more vehicles. In 1978, there were 17.75 million cars on Britain's roads; now there are more than 25 million.

The average household devotes 15 per cent of its expenditure to motoring but the proportion of its inome to own and operate a vehicle has fallen by a third since the early 1960s due to increased standards of living and the falling cost of buying a car.

Wall of red lights on road to Hell

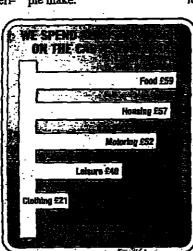
As I inched into the exhaust fume-filled maw of the Limehouse Link tunnel, a solid wall of red lights stretching off into the gloom,

I realised this was the gridlock from Hell. There was no going back and it was quite clear we were going to be there for some time. It had already Itaken more than half-an-hour to crawl the few yards from the Canary Wharf car park to the mouth of the tunnel that runs west from Docklands toward

Fortunately, having been to the supermarket after leaving my office, I had bread and water. I might need them. I could be here for hours. Strange thoughts entered my mind What were the toilet facilities: More seriously, would the ex tractors cope with the fumes? They ought to, this was, after all, the most expensive bit of road in London.

In the event, it was not so bad. It took 30 minutes to clear the tunnel; another hour's crawl to get home to north London, a journey that northat time. And that was heading away from the Blackwall Tunnel. My sanity was saved by the stand up comedy tape I found. But it was not the only reason fellow motorists might have seen me laughing hys-terically.... Terry Kirby

At the same time, public transport has become steadily more expensive, and many prefer to rely on their own vehicle any way because buses and trains cannot provide the flexibility for most of the trips peo-



Most of the nation now drives to work with the exception of those who work in central London. "People now live in the country away from work and rely on the car. Journeys to work by bus and rail on a national level are not very im-portant at all," said Dr Stephen Glaister, author of the report.

In fact, the car is the dominant means of transport for most journeys - and is only beaten into second place for journeys of under a mile, by

Demographic changes are also helping the inexorable rise of the car

"There will be a genera-tional effect," said Stephen Glaister, author of the report. Only 7 per cent of women over 75 who live alone have got cars at the moment. They often never had driving licences and if they had a car their husband drove it for them. But for women in their 40s, 70 per cent have driving licences so in 20

to 30 years they are much more likely to have a car."

As cars continue to fill our roads, the difficulty of how to cope with the overload remains a problem. "A time bomb is ticking under UK transport, as the new study clearly signals that more British citizens intend to buy and run cars because motoring is es-sential to daily life," said John 15, AA. DO

"People see their lives being enriched by having a car. Seeking to deny these aspirations. rather than manage them, is a

dead-end policy."
Options to deal with the sitnation could include providing more roads to ease congestion. or putting up the price of fuel to try to discourage frequent use of cars for short journeys.

Roger Higman, senior transport campaigner for Friends of the Earth, called for more money to be put into alternative forms of transport: "The idea that people have become totally dependent on their cars is nothing new. The

question is what can we do to encourage people off it.
If the facilities were better more people would use public transport. Dr Glaister writes in conclusion to the LSE re-

port: "Very strong forces are going to carry on car ownership and the use of cars unless society faces up to this and makes a decision to stop it. We can't stick our heads in the sand it won't go away."
 ■ Who Spends What on Motoring in the UK?; AA. Norfolk House, Priestley Road, Basingstoke, Hamp-shire, RG24 9NY.

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GOING ON THIS CHRISTMAS

Devious, truculent and unreliable?

Clare Garner

Heaven knows, Morrissey really does have reason to be miserable now. The Smiths' lead singer, who always held the purse strings, has been ordered by a High Court judge to dig deep into his own pocket to pay out money owed to the band's former drummer Mike Joyce.

Concluding the seven-day battle over how the profits should be shared between the group's four members, Judge John Weeks described the lead singer. Stephen Morrissey, as "devious, truculent and unreliable" and ordered the man who "held the purse strings" to pay the ex-drummer his fair

Morrissey and lead guitarist Johnny Marr who together wrote the group's hit songs, including "Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now", were the dominant figures in running The Smiths' affairs. They claimed there was an agreement that they would get all the profits from publishing, and 40 per cent each from other royalties. But Joyce claimed he was never told he was going to be paid only 10 per cent of record and performing royalties.

Now Morrissey and Marr must now pay Joyce his quartershare of the profits made by the band, and must also pay legal costs, estimated at £250,000. Le-



What a judge said about the rock star Morrissev

gal experts said the extra share of the profits, plus interest dating from 1987, would mean dissolved in 1987 that Joyce in

Joyce should receive £1m. Judge Weeks said that when Joyce applied for a mortgage. his accountant wrote to the building society stating his share of the annual income of the band was in excess of £20,000, which the accounts showed was a 25 per cent share of the profits from 1984 and 1985.

When Joyce was sent a copy of the group's accounts in July 1986, he out it in a drawer without studying it. Judge Weeks said he was satisfied that even if he had looked at the figures, he would not have realised the implications and that he was re-

It was only when the group dissolved in 1987 that Joyce re-

alised what had been happening. He showed the accounts to a friend who had accountancy knowledge and he began his legal battle for an equal share. In 1989 Andy Rourke, the group's bass guitarist who had fought a battle with heroin addiction, was "desperately short of money" and settled with

When Marr and Morrissey eventually admitted there had been a partnership agreement in November last year, they paid ing immediately.

Marr and Morrissey for £83,000 and 10 per cent of future record

royalties, giving up all further

over £273,000 to Joyce as set-tlement of 10 per cent of The

Smiths' profits.
Judge Weeks said all four had
no business experience, having left school between the ages of 15 and 16 with few qualifications, but that Morrissey took all the decisions. At 23, he was four years older than the other members and more assertive and although he controlled the group's finances, he "lacked the will" to tell Rourke and Joyce of his decisions over prof-

it sharing.
"He left it to Mr Mart to give the unpalatable news to the other two," the judge said.
Joyce said after the hearing:

'I still have the highest regard for Morrissey but always knew 10 years ago when I started this action that I would win. This was never about money. It will not change my lifestyle but it will se-cure the future for my wife and children."

Morrissey, who was not in court for yesterday's judgment, in a statement issued through his solicitors, said: "I am disappointed and surprised at the judge's decision, particularly given the weight of the evidence against Mike Joyce's claim. I will be considering the terms of the judgment with my solicitors to assess possible grounds for appeal." Marr refused to comment and left the court build-

Reflected glory: Matthew Jury of HMS Victory in Portsmouth, Hampshire, making use of the facilities offered by the naval base's Historic Ships in the City enterprise, which has just won the National Public Loo of the Year award Photograph: Russell Sach

Britain's children & toiling for 10p an hour

Charlie Bain

Around 90 per cent of children living in the Midlands, the north of England and Scotland are employed illegally, new research has revealed.

Children as young as 10 are working long hours on low pay in a variety of jobs ranging from paper rounds to working in sawmilis. One 12 year-old boy was discovered working as a re-ceptionist for a mini-cab firm in Cumbria for 10p an hour.

The research was carried out by Dr Jim McKechnie of the University of Paisley, and challenges the notion that child labour is only found in Third World countries.

Speaking at the launch of a report published by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), documenting the plight of young children working around the world, Dr Mck-echnie said that the problem of child labour in Britain had been neglected.

People living in the developed world seem to get up on their soap boxes and preach to the underdeveloped world about the appalling child labour conditions in their countries, when in fact everything isn't so rosy in their own back garden."

The main problem, he added, was that local authorities were neglecting the issue of work permits, and rarely exercised their right to fine employers who exploit children illegally.

He added that the old myth that says that poverty is the main cause of child labour is no longer true in Britain, with more middle class children doing "beneficial" work experience.

The research shows that 70 per cent of children have been involved in some sort of paid employment outside the family by the age of 16, earning on average £1-£2 an hour. In the north of England and Scotland, 29 per cent of children had worked before the age of 13.

Citing a number of Dickensian examples, Dr McKechnie said that he found one "very young" boy working in a sawmill in Dumfries, Galloway, and another who suffocated last year when cleaning out a vat at a

сац ластоту. Labour's overseas develop ment spokeswoman Clare Short praised the work of Unicef, and called for politicians recognise the plight of children: "In-stead of talking about ridiculous buildings in Greenwich to celebrate the Millennium, why don't we determine to see an era where no children are malnourished, who all have prima-ry health care," she said.

Two guilty of embassy bombing

Two Palestinian terrorists were six and a half hours of deliber- Mr Alami after they were con- were members of a Palestinian convicted at the Old Bailey ations. yesterday of plotting to bomb Jewish targets in Britain in a bid to sabotage the Middle East

Jawad Botmeh and Samar Alami used their English university educations to make the high explosives for their bombing campaign. The two ex-students will be sentenced on Monday. A third defendant, Mahmoud Abu-Wardeh, was cleared of taking part in the conspiracy and released on order of the judge, Mr Justice Garland.

Both Mr Botmeh and Mr Alami showed no emotion as the jury returned their verdicts after

Mr Alami, 30. of South Kensington, central London, Mr Botmeh. a businessman. 28. of Bloomsbury, central London, and Mr Abu-Wardeh, 25, of Putney, south-west London, had all denied conspiring to cause explosions between January 1993 and May 1995. They also denied possessing an explosive substance - Triacetone Triperoxide - of a nature likely to endanger life or cause serious damage on or before 25 May 1995, and pos-

The jury were not asked to return verdicts on the possession charges against Mr Botmeh and

session of firearms.

victed of the bombing plot. But Mr Abu-Wardeh was cleared of all the charges. Mr Abu-Wardeh nodded to the jury as they cleared him of all charges against him. He hugged his co-defendants before leaving the dock.

Two car bombs rocked the Israeli Embassy, in Kensington Gardens, west London, and a Jewish charity in north London in July 1994 - causing millions of pounds of damage, "Merci-fully no one was killed or seriously injured but they were grave acts of terrorism," Mr Justice Garland said when summing up the two month trial. Mr Botmeh and Mr Alami

terror cell in Britain. They believed that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat "was misguided in his attempts to come to any accommodation with Israel and wished to hinder the process", David Calvert-Smith, prosecuting, had told the court.

Earlier in the trial Mrs Nadia Zekra, a mother of two, who was originally accused of planting the bomb, was found not guilty on the orders of the judge after he described the evidence against her as suspect. Mr Justice Garland accepted a defence submission that Mrs Zekra, 49, who had denied causing the explosion, had no case to answer.



Club doorman names Leah's ecstasy dealer

A nightclub doorman yesterday named in court the drug dealer he claimed supplied the ecstasy tablet which killed teenager Leah Betts.

Patrick O'Mahoney, head doorman at Raquel's nightclub in Basildon, Essex, at the time Leah died, claimed it was a man named Mark Murray who was now living in Spain.
But Mr O'Mahoney said he

ultimately laid the blame for Leah's death at the door of the club's managers, who he said were aware dealers operated in the club and instructed doormen to let them carry on. The jury at Norwich Crown Court was also told that secu-

rity at Raquel's had been organised by Tony Tucker, who was one of three men later found shot dead in a Range Rover at Rettendon, Essex. The court has been told the ecstasy that killed Leah was

bought via a network of friends including 18-year-old Steven Packman, of Laindon, Essex, who denies being involved in the supply of the drug. A 19-year-old, Stephen Smith has admitted a similar charge.
Leah collapsed into a coma

shortly after taking one of the tablets at her 18th birthday party at her parents' home in Latchingdon in November last vear. She died a few days later. Mr O'Mahoney said police had arrested and questioned Mr

Murray following Leah's death,
"The police are well aware about Mark Murray," he said. "I am just sick of that scumbag sitting in Spain." Mr O'Mahoney said nine people were in prison because of Mr Murray. The court was told how the

News of the World newspaper had arranged for Mr O'Mahoney to meet Mr Packman in an attempt to hear what the 18year-old had to say about the ecstasy which killed Leah.

Mr O'Mahoney tape-record-ed the conversation. And he said he realised that Mr Packman had bought the drugs from Mr Murray during the conver-sation. "It could only be Mark Murray really," said Mr O'Mahoney. "When he [Packman] described him I knew who he was talking about. It is proba bly why no one has seen Mark Murray since that day."

Mr O'Mahoney admitted that he was a criminal and had had dealings in the past with "serious criminals". He had many convictions, in-

in the last 18 months he had changed his way of life. He said he now lived in fear of his life because he was giving evidence and had given information to police. He told the court that security arrangements at Raquel's were managed by Tony Tucker, a known drugs dealer, who was

found shot dead with two other dealers a few weeks after Leah's death. A trial is pending in connection with the killings, the jury was told.
"I feel sorry for [Mr Pack-man]. He is afraid of the ghost

name the man he is protecting," Mr O'Mahoney said. "I was aware as well as the management were aware and everyone else was aware what particular person was supplying

The hearing continues today.

ecstasy in that club."

of Tony Tucker. He should just



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Life destroyed by post-traumatic stress disorder after Hillsborough

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

A man who became psycho-logically ill after his half-brother was crushed to death in the 1989 Hillsborough disaster is en-titled to £201,729 damages from South Yorkshire Police, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

John McCarthy, 35, who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, would never work again, Mr Justice Sachs said as he awarded the sum to cover suffering and injury to health, loss of earnings and medical

Teresa Glover, the brothers' mother, said afterwards: "I am happy and I'm sad. It is very emotional for us even after all these years."

Mr McCarthy, who was 28 at the time of the tragedy, had giv-en a spare ticket for the Liverpool-Nottingham Forest semi-final to his half-brother Ian Glover, 11 years his junior. Mr McCarthy sat in the north stand but Ian's ticket and that of another brother, Joe Glover, were for the Leppings Lane end of the Sheffield ground.

Mr McCarthy, who had been watching the carnage unfold in the pens, and Joe Glover, who survived the crush, identified lan's body in a makeshift mor-

tuary in the gymnasium.

The judge said: "I have seen the photograph of his deceases half-brother. I have seen the video of events in that gymna-sium. They were utterly hor-

On what would have been Ian's 21st birthday Mr Mc-Carthy attempted suicide.
As in earlier cases, the force

had admitted negligently caus-ing death and injury but claimed Mr McCarthy was too remote from the scene and did not have a close enough relationship with his half-brother.

Many relatives of the tragedy's victims have been awarded only the standard bereavement allowance. They have been unable to claim for psychological illness if they were too remote from the crushing or if their ties with the

victim were not close. But Mr Justice Sachs said Mr

McCarthy's claim was clearly different from a leading House of Lords case involving Brian Harrison and Robert Alcock, who lost two brothers and a brother-in-law respectively and

whose claims were rejected. In Mr McCarthy's case, the evidence that he was "particularly close" to his half-brother was "all one way", the judge said, and his reaction to what he saw and heard in the short time after being told of the death was "of no surprise to anybody who has seen these oc-

Geoffrey Glave, a former South Yorkshire policeman who was one of the officers who won damages for post-traumatic stress disorder last month, had looked after Ian Glover's body and gave evidence in yesterday's case. The scene in the gymnasium was "utter carnage", he told the court, Mr McCarthy and Joe Glover had collapsed over the body, inconsolable.

Mrs Glover watched the Jimmy McGovern Hillsborough drama last week which featured Jan and Joe. Because yesterday's case was still unresolved, some of John Mc-Carthy's role in the actual events was incorporated into Joe's character.

Lawyers for South Yorkshire police said yesterday that an ap-peal was being considered. The that the House of Lords had urged limitations on such claims but insisted: "My decision creates no precedent. I decide it on the facts and I am satisfied ... that the plaintiff passes the tests entitling him to be com-

He added: "Whilst there is nothing I can really do to compensate the Glover and the McCarthy families for the loss of lan, I do hope that if this is to be conclusion of the higation it will bring to them all, if not peace of mind, at least a lowering of the anxiety and hurt

Mrs Glover welcomed calls for the inquest inquest into the 96 deaths to be reopened or for a fresh inquiry to be held into the new evidence disclosed in Salad days return to Gillingham FC (but not in the way you might think)



Vegetable fetish: Fans brandishing bunches of celery outside Gillingham Town's ground in Kent as the ritual

Photograph: Bill Graham/KNP

David Lister

devotion to duty.

In a gift to stand-up comedians everywhere, Gillingham football club has declared celery an offensive weapon.

Soccer fans in the Kent town have been turning up to matches with celery hidden in their trousers. The assumption that this would not be noticed by police demonstrates an egoism not often found in the eague second division. Equally, the decision by club stewards to frisk fans for celery indicates a commendable

Curiously, the fans have been using the celery not to attack opposing fans or even opposing players, but their own goalkeeper. Jim Stannard, at 16st 6lb one of football's chunkier athletes, has been bombarded by his pporters at eve game. This is preceded by a chant known as the Celery Song, with a chorus of the one word CELERY sung to the well-known soccer chorus WEMBERLEY. The verse is better not described at all. Gillingham Town's

directors have now decided that a formightly bombardment of their own goalkeeper is not in the best interests of the club. This view appeared to have some logic when the Gillingham players with a chorus of CELERY ringing in their ears lost at home to Cardiff this week in the first round of the Auto Windscreen Shield trophy. Only 1,193 fans were present, but local greengrocers still did a

roaring trade.

The club's programme editor, Matt Davison, said with pride yesterday: "Our keeper is the heaviest player in the league. A lot of celery was thrown and inevitably some of it went in his direction. But it's been something to identify the chib with. We're the only club

to have a connection with a

Gillingham is the first club to ban celery, but the link between the vegetable and football started at the more upmarket Chelsea in the Eighties. After club vicechairman, Matthew Harding. was killed in a helicopter crash last October, a bunch of celery was placed among the

Sticking points: Five facts about celery 1. A diet of nothing but celery would be fatal. It takes more energy to eat it than it gives you. 2. The Romans are celery to deepen the voice for public speaking.

3. Model Marie Helvin gave up cigarettes by

4. Celery was introduced to Britain from Italy in the 17th century. In Italy today, the opera singer Luciano Pavarotti insists on one celery stick in his favourite pasta.

5. Gardener Bemaid Lavery achieved a world record with a 46lb celery head. He claimed to make it grow by "talking to it nicely."

floral tributes at the ground. RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP Can you survive 28 gruelling stages in the world's toughest test on wheels? There's only one

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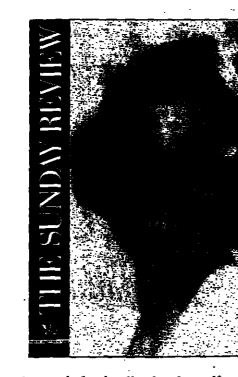
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THERE'S A GREAT DEAL GOING ON THIS CHRISTMAS



What is the use in having lived so long, if at the end you don't know what you know?' In what she expects to be her last major piece of published writing, Martha Gelihorn looks back on an extraordinary life

A former traveller, living on benefits, squatting. begging, addicted to heroin... Carl (right) is an anti-hero for our nmes. But, discovers Andy Beckett, this 27-year-old drifter is also a rather ordinary human being, whose aspirations

confound our prejudices

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One of the most wonderful chapters in the whole history of art...' David Sylvester reflects on Picasso, Braque, and the creative fruits of their relationship

> Plus: the sixth annual Independent on Sunday

Illness forces Fiennes to quit polar expedition

Michael Streeter

The adventurer Sir Ranulph Fiennes was forced to abandon an attempt to become the first person to walk alone and unsupported across the Antarctic vesterday when he was laid low by kidney stones.

After 48 hours of constant pain, Fiennes sent up two distress flares to show he could not continue his 1.800-mile, 110-day trek to the South Pole.

As a rescue plane was moving to locate the explorer, his wife Lady Fiennes said the news was bitterly disappointing.
This was the last thing we expected to happen. He has had kidney stones before and was therefore taking medication to prevent them.

The maddening thing is that once the stones come out he will be okay again - he is very fit." The distress flares were spotted by his back-up team earli-

er yesterday. He was nearly a quarter of the way into the ex-

pedition and had otherwise been making good progress. Dr Mike Stroud, the expedi-

tion's medical adviser who failed in an earlier attempt to complete the feat along with Fiennes in 1992, said he was "very, very disappointed" for the explorer. "He's been working hard for quite a long time and to end up like this is the worst possible outcome."

Dr Stroud told ITN that kidney stones could be extremely debilitating. "It's meant to be the worst pain you can get and it makes you feel very sick and ill and alone in a tent and out in Antarctica, it must have been

Fiennes was hoping that his mission would raise £1m for the breast cancer charity Break-

He was competing against in-ternational explorers who set off at a similar time and was trailslightly behind his main ri-Norwegian Borge Ousland, who is 20 years his junior.



A dog has its day: Johnny Morris, the presenter of Animal Magic, with one of four dogs who were guests of the National Canine Defence League at a tea party at Canary Wharf, east London, yesterday, to encourage animal lovers to 'Sponsor a Dog' – and save its life – this Christmas for £1 a week or more

Bad sports that turn out losers

Liz Hunt Health Editor

That little

black number

you get out for

any occasion.

The long-held belief that "sport builds character" has been turned on its head by a new study which concludes that some sports appear to foster delinquent behaviour in teenagers.

Non-team pursuits - such as tennis, wind-surfing, aerobics and athletics - were found to be associated with bad behaviour. Boys who took part in a lot of non-team sports at 15 were aimost twice as likely to indulge in car theft, burglary, shoplift-ing, and fighting with a weapon by the time they were 18 as boys who did little or no sports, according to the study.

For girls, the figure was even higher and they were almost three times as likely to be involved in deviant behaviour by 18 as their non-sporting peers.

While some participants in

their post-match pack behav-United States and New Zealand say that games such as rugby, cricket, hockey and netball were

delinquency among individuals.
Writing in today's issue of the
British Iournal of Sports Medicine, Dr Dorothy Begg, of Otago Medical School in Dunedin,

tive to war for channelling "young people's aggressive-ness". In the mid-19th century it was a form of social control not associated with increased in public schools, and was viewed as a substitute for the poaching, vandalism, bullying and drunkenness which had been the preferred choices of

time of the ancient Greeks who

believed that it was an alterna-

New Zealand, and colleagues boys with too much leisure. Are games good for the

nation, or do they breed delinquents? say: "Conventional sports which

incorporate many aspects of the broader society (for example, ures) may appeal to the nondelinquent, but for the delinquent, who by definition Sport has been an integral feel-good factor at a national for unconventional characters.

Over time, the hypothesis that sport is a deterrent - that involvement in such activities exposes young people to strong conforming influences rather than deviant ones - has become accepted. The Prime Minister.

part of most societies since the and local level. Earlier this year, John Major committed millions of pounds of National Lottery money to improving sporting facilities and increasing participation by everyone. from career athlete to weekend enthusiast and schoolchild.

However, the authors of the new study say that there is an alternative view, the "athletic delinquent" hypothesis which is less popular. This holds that deviant behaviour is a product of an individual's membership of or contact with organisations. A team sport could, in theory, expose a child to older delinquents, while behaviour such as

cheating in athletics can actu-ally be learned by participants. Dr Begg concludes that the study's findings do not support the view that sport is a panacea for delinquent behaviour, but "if anything, it may exacerbate the problem". She says that activities should be tailored to the insociety', such activities offer has made clear his belief in the challenging Outward Bound role of sport in establishing a activities may be more suitable

Surgery cancelled in cash crisis

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Patients are having operations cancelled by hospitals facing a cash crisis this winter, in spite of the additional £1.6bn won for the health service by Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health.

General practitioners in South London are being told by their local Lewisham hospital trust to halt all non-urgent referrals to the hospital until next April, when the extra money becomes available with the new financial year. GPs in East London similarly have been told by their hospital trust to delay all non-urgent cases until then.

Chris Smith, Labour's spokesman for Health, said a similar picture was emerging in other parts of the country. "Wherever

pressure of emergency cases will intensify the difficulties facing hospitals, with the inevitable consequences of delayed operations and lengthening waiting lists." he said.

Doctors in South London are being told in a letter from the Lewisbam Hospital NHS Trust, which The Independent has obtained, that the hospital is being forced to cancel all noisurgent elective surgery becau of the shortage of funds. The squeeze has been increased in a rise of 12 per cent in emeration has financial year. gency admissions.

Many patients will be "dis-" Jim Dowd, the Labour MP for

Lewisham West, "I very much

I go," he said, "I hear reports of regret the action that we are freeing up beds. Hospitals will hospitals in cash shortage. The forced to take and I know our have to make ends meet by a clinical teams will be as sensiappropriate clinical cases are still brought in," she added, "... until the 31st March 1997, we will reluctantly only be able to treat urgent cases and those who would otherwise exceed the 18-

months waiting-time target." Mr Dowd is protesting to Mr Dorrell over the delays, but ministerial sources indicated there would be no further injection of cash this year to help tide the hospitals over to the

Mr Dorrell, in effect, admit-is-sted there was a problem by al-Many patients will be our specified was a problem by arappointed and upset", Val Mar-stocating £20m to a "challenge tin, chief executive of the chind" for hospitals to make bids hospital, warned in the letter to by the end of the month for the Jim Dowd, the Labour MP for money to allow more elderly people to be treated at home.

combination of accountancy tive as they can to make sure all . tricks, demanding earlier payment of bills by fundholding GPs, and they may delay paying their own bills, although that would be against government policy. Health authorities may also borrow money from each other, under a "brokerage" system.

Government figures show that ten NHS trusts remained in real deficit in 1995-6, ranging from Mid Anglia Community at £119,000, to United Leeds Teaching hospitals at £6.9m.

Mr Dorrell has predicted there will be a net surplus for the trusts of £60m, but that could hide big deficits for some trusts, who have a statutory duty to break even at the end of the year.

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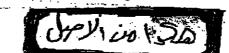
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The drawing from hell that helps to heal the trauma Glenda Cooper on how children can

come to terms with abuse through art

Scattered on the floor, the drawings are graphic, shocking and angry. They are also an essential way for Susan to come to terms with the abuse she suffered throughout her childhood.

using art therapy. As well as victims of sexual abuse, they have also reached out to those affected by the IRA bomb in Warrington in March 1993 and those who have suffered bereavement.

who we branger at a tea parter

OSETS

Since May 1993, the project has treated more than 300 people of which around 15 per cent of people self for the abuse and turning to selfsix-month period, people's changes have been "highly effective" for nearly eight out of 10 people. The children, mainly between the ages of eight and 14, attend six sessions, af-

Using art has been seen as a powerful way to help such young children. "Children are often abused in the pre-verbal stage," said Jim Walters, the co-ordinator. "Nearly all survivors of semal abuse are abused be-Susan [not her real name] is one of the hundreds of people that the NSPCC Therapeutic Centre for the Child in Warrington has helped by www.s. of scattal acuse are acuse as a constant of the development of logical thinking and rationality, so image making is very important for them."

Susan was abused from an early age by a close relative and was gang raped at the age of 14. When she first came to the project years later, she was "a quivering wreck".

have been adults. Over a three- to harm. A lot of women think that the abuse is their fault." Susan's paintings show her feel-

ings about this - one showing the was going on." bluebell wood where she was repeatedly raped, the other her bedroom where she used to lie and gaze



on. "They represented a means of escape," said Mr Walters. "It was a way of disassociating herself from what

But by letting go of her feelings through art, Susan changed dramatically. "By finishing a piece of work which left Tim Parry and Johnathan allow him to let go of the shame."

out of the window at the stars and birds in the tree while the abuse went said Mr Walters. "It is an empowering aspect of the art. It shows the possibility of telling their story."

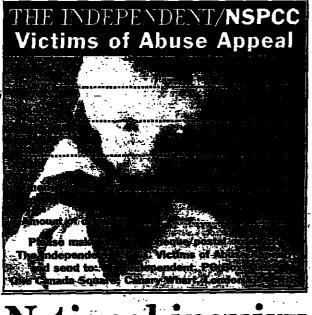
It is not just victims of sexual abuse whom the project helps. It has also worked with bereaved children and was used after the Warrington bomb

Ball dead, Children who were close to the families felt terrific grief. "One child hadn't gone into town

that day and someone he knew was seriously injured. He felt that 'it should have been me', said Mr Walters. "We had to work with imagemaking as part of the process, to

project also runs three-day intensive courses for groups, where various excreises are undertaken. In one case, survivors are asked to visualise a room with their name on and draw what is inside. Often the results are al experience. "It is like coming out frightening. One woman drew her family and herself separate with a is a great mediator."

As well as individual therapy, the buge painted black line around it reject also runs three-day intensive symbolising her family's inability to accept the fact she had been abused. The group - usually seven or eight people - will then explain the drawings, often a very emotion-



National inquiry into abuse urged

Roger Dobson

The MP David Alton yesterday called for a national inquiry into abuse in children's homes following the launch of a third big

police inquiry.
Police in Merseyside have joined officials in Cheshire and north Wales in investigating abuse in children's homes, with smaller inquires under way elsewhere. All relate to allegations of widespread abuse in the Seventies and Eighties.

Mr Alton, Liberal Democrat member for Mossley Hill in Liverpool, who will chair a meeting between MPs and the families of abused children next week, said the calls for a full inquiry were becoming irresistible.

"I think that the case which has been argued for wider royal commission or judicial inquiry is a good one," he said. "I cannot think of an issue which cries out more for a through ju-

dicial inquiry than this. "It seems to be the case that children's homes can act like a children's manies an act like a honey pot for people with a par-ticular dispesition and the net-working thing seems secondary to that. Clearly there needs to be a rigour that you don't have to have in any other occupation and that seems to have been

what has been missing."

Parents of abuse victims in the North-west have invited 40 MPs to a meeting in the Commons near week to hear their case for a royal commission.





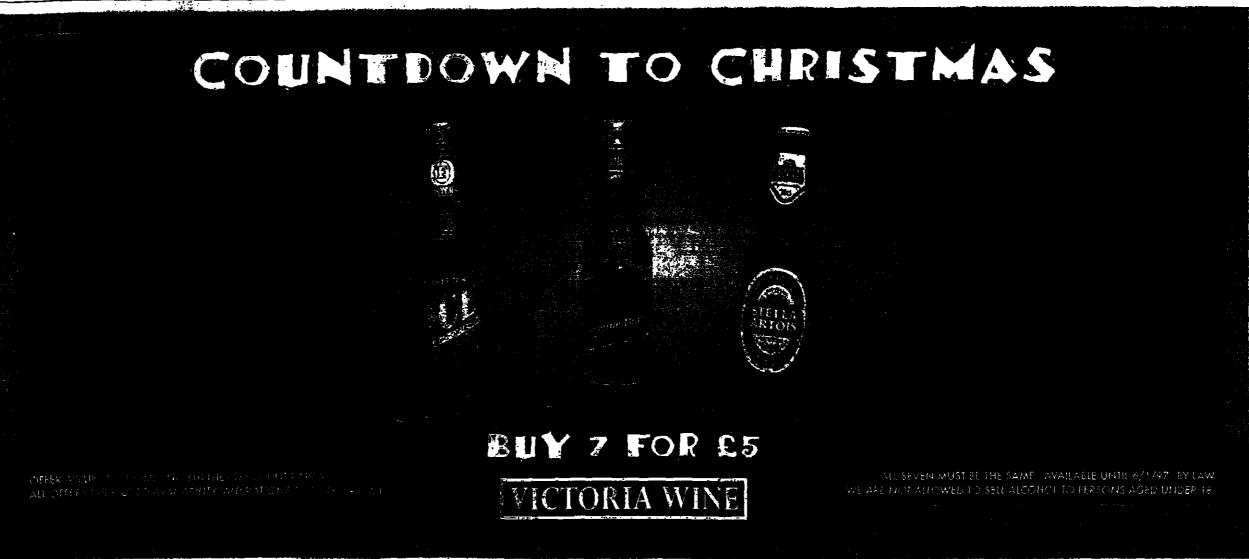


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Students getting worse, dons say

Judith JuddEducation Editor

Most academics believe the standard of undergraduates arriving at university has fallen over the last 10 years, according to a survey commissioned by

The findings will offer am-munition to traditionalists who say that school and examination standards are leaving even the brightest pupils hadly prepared

for university.

Nearly one-fifth of those questioned also felt that they were under pressure to give students good grades in examinations because of the need to compete with other universities in the market place. The drop in standards has been particularly dramatic in mathematics where eight out of ten lecturers think that freshers are less wellprepared than they were.

Overall, 59 per cent think that the standard is down while just 10 per cent think they have stayed the same, says the survey by Continental Research which questioned 302 professors and lecturers in 50 universities.

English dons are the least worried about standards. Onethird think that they have improved and just over one-third think they are worse.

Science and engineering academics, however, are only slightly less gloomy than their colleagues in mathematics. In languages, six out of ten think there has been a fall.

Most dons were cautious about the way in which the government policy of rewarding universities which attract the most students had affected marking in degree examina-

tions. Only 6 per cent said they agreed strongly that they were under pressure to give stu-dents good grades though a further 13 per cent said they slightly agreed. However, twothirds said that they strongly disagreed. Again, dons in math-ematics felt under more pressure than their colleagues in other subjects.

Nearly three-quarters of those questioned thought that the quality of university education had declined markedly because of spending cuts. The worst effect, they said, had been increasing class sizes and less contact with individual

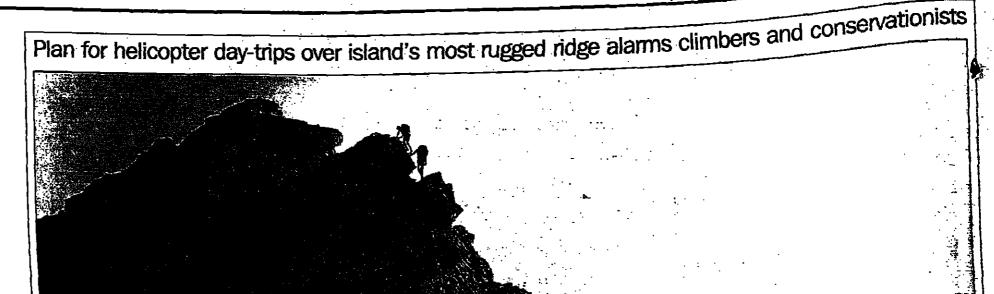
Fewer than one-third backed a national scheme for student loans for tuition fees to be repaid through national insurance, unlike university vice-chancellors who supported such a scheme. At present, students loans are available only for living costs. They were even more op-

posed to individual universities charging top-up tuition fees. Several universities had said that they would consider top-ups after last year's budget cuts.

Vice-chancellors have welcomed the relief offered in last month's budget announcement and urged universities not to charge extra fees. But governors at the London School of Economics will tonight decide whether or not to charge top-

Six out of ten academics questioned wanted taxes to be increased to pay for the growing numbers of students going to university. Education+, The Tabloid:

Academe under stress



Photograph: Gordon Stainforth

Skye distress at threat from the

Heritage Correspondent

A proposal to run £30-a-head helicopter rides over the Cuillin ridge on the Isle of Skye, the most rugged mountain landscape in Britain, has alarmed climbers and conservationists.

The "antiered Cuillin", as the island poet Sorley Maclean so accurately described them, rise directly from the sea to form a chain of peaks over 3,000ft. The precipitous ridge and wild corries are the preserve of climbers, walkers and golden eagles. But the sense of wilderness in

what is a relatively small area of the Highlands - it can be traversed on

foot in a day - is threatened by a proposal from a London-based firm to run tourist helicopter rides. Skye Helicopters, a subsidiary of MFH Helicopters Ltd, wants to station two four-scater Robinson R44s at Sligachan, the nearest point to the range on the island's main road. At peak times in the spring and summer there would 10-minute

flights at £30 a seat. Tomorrow is the deadline for objections to the company's planning application for three helipads – a concrete strip 50m by 25m - a cabin and lavatories on

land owned by the Sligachan Hotel. Although word of the scheme was slow to filter out, scores of objections are piling up at the

planning office in Portree, the island's main town. The Mountaineering Council of Scotland

has received copies of at least 30. "The main fear is the loss of the feeling of being in a wild landscape." Mike Dales, the council's access and conservation officer, said. "That's the main reason people go to Skye and it is an intangible but important

part of the Skye economy." Sir Chris Bonington, president of the Alpine Club, said Skye would be damaging its most precious resource. The combination of noise and visual pollution is appalling."

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Scottish Natural Heritage are concerned about the effect on rare bird

populations, particularly the golden

eagle.
MFH insists that the helicopters would not be intrusive and that the scheme would only go ahead if it won local backing. Edward Wood. a director of MFH, said four seasonal jobs would be created and the helicopters could assist in mountain rescues.

"It would appear from our research that there is a large number of people who may not be super-fit but would like to see the Cuillin range," Mr Wood said. "Only a small proportion of time would be spent over the northern Cuillin and one can adjust flight patterns ... so there is minimal intrusion for climbers." Local opinion is divided. The

majority in Sconser, three miles from Sligachan, are content for the flights to go ahead. "Four jobs are important to an area where

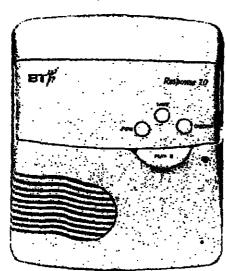
employment is always a bit sticky. Neil Maclean, the town clerk, said. But Sandy Coghill and his family, Sligachan's only residents apart from the hotel, are opposed. Mr Coghill owns a campsite used by climbers and walkers and lears the flights will alienate traditional visitors.

Paddy O'Neill, president of the Fell and Rock Club, who proposed to his wife, Janet, 23 years ago by Loch Coruisk in the shadow of the Cuillin, also objects. "Imagine having to shout over the sound of a helicopter where there should be just the sighing of the wind."

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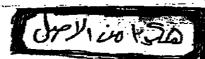
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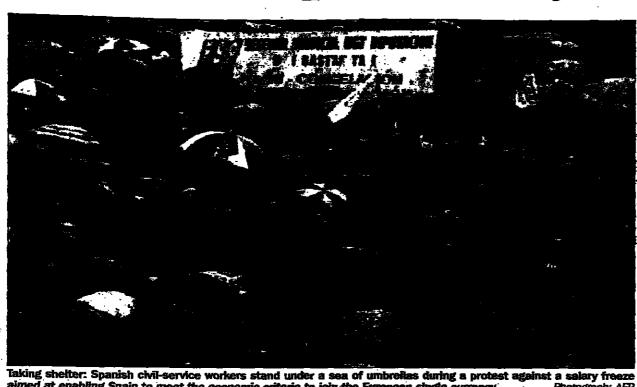
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Post-euro plans may leave Britain out in rain



New plans to form a powerful body to run European eco-nomic policy after the launch of the single currency are to be discussed when European Union leaders meet in Dublin this

New Franco-German ideas for such a body are already causing intense anxiety in the Treasury. If Britain does not join the single currency, the Govern-ment would be excluded from the new club, which will have wide ranging powers to set eco-nomic policy for the curo-zone. Although no formal proposals

are likely to be set out at Dublin, discussions on a joint letter setting out the idea were underway in Paris and Bonn this week. The moves by France and Germany to develop their plans will fuel fears among British pro-Europeans that if Britain does not join the single curren-cy it will be left on the sidelines.

New ideas will also be proposed in Dublin to extend the so-called "stability pact", the controversial system of rules for running the euro-zone, which is

Franco-German ideas for EMU have sparked an attack of Treasury jitters. Sarah Helm reports from Brussels

a "stability-and-growth pact". is largely agreed in Bonn and The intention is to reassure the Paris that decisions on enpublic that the single currency means growth and jobs, as well as strict economic discipline.

The proposals from France and Germany are the latest indication of the serious preparation which is underway for the launch of the euro. Outstanding differences between Prance and Germany over how the single currency's rules and sanctions should be applied are still not settled. However, sources in Paris and Bonn last night expected that the dispute would be solved at a meeting of European finance ministers to-

day, ahead of the full summit. Once the stability-pact rules have been finalised, attention will switch to the more sensitive icy will be agreed and what body

forcement of the stability pact would be taken by European financo-munisters, as set out un-

der the Maastricht treaty.
However, the more radical plan is to establish an informal policy-making body, which would meet separately from the featible ministers, and would agree in advance how the stability pact should be enforced. The new club would also discuss exchange-rate policy for the euro-zone and other crucial aspects of economic policy. It would constitute an inner circle, from which Britain would be excluded if it chose not to join the

single currency.

The idea of creating an informal political group, which would probably consist of heads of government from countries in-side the single currency, has al-

ready been floated by Jean Arthuis, the French finance minister. He discussed the idea with Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, during the Anglo-French summit last month, when Mr Clarke

voiced strong opposition.

The plans, which are carefully guarded, are sensitive for all countries who may be left out of monetary union in the first phase. Should a hody be estab-lished for "in" countries only, sus-picion will grow of a new "hard-core" Europe. The European Commission is also strongly apposed to the setting up of such a body which would be our-side the rules of the Maastricht treaty. But France has long argued that Europe's economic policy must not be left solely in the hands of the future European Central Bank, but must be given a political counter-weigh

Any disagreements apart, the European finance ministers are determined to use the Dublin summit to pruclaim the success of the stability negotiations. The pact is widely viewed as the foundation stone

Israel plans 'time-bomb' settlement

Patrick Cockburn

en conservation

the skie

In the next few months Israeli house to the sewage system.

None of this is likely to move bulldozers may start clearing who says he wants "to do every-

Jews in the Ras al-Amud district ment of Benjamin Netanyahu. where 11,000 Palestinians live below the Mount of Olives came at a meeting of the Jerusalem Planning Board, where objectors say the officials refused to translate from Hebrew to Arabic.

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, said yesterday in Gaza that the decision to go



ahead with the project was contrary to the Oslo accords under which the future of Jerusalem is to be settled. "This is a very serious breach of what has been

agreed upon," he said.

A more immediate problem faces Ali Hamdullah, 41, and his two brothers who live, with their families, in a large white house on one corner of the 3.5 acres where Dr Moskowitz, who lives in Miami, wants to build his settlement.

"We have lived here since 1952 and I was born here," said Mr Hamdullah, a truck driver, waving an eviction notice from Dr Moskowitz's lawyer.

He says that over the past 10 years Jerusalem municipality has used the site, which used to be covered in olive trees, as a rubbish dump. A few trees still protrude from the rubble. Mr Hamdullah said: "We tried to stop them dumping rubbish ... by parking a lorry at the en-

trance, but the police told us to move it." He adds that the municipality refused to connect the

land for a Jewish settlement in the heart of Palestinian East Jerusalem. The project is financed by an American multimillionaire, Irving Moskowitz, to Ateret Cohanim - "Crown of the Priests" - a settler organithing I possibly can to help re- sation which has already established 600 Jews in the Muslim quarter of the Old City Permission to go ahead with of Jerusalem. He is closely al-the plan to build 132 houses for hed to the right-wing govern-

> Danny Seidemann, a lawyer for Ir Shalem, a peace group opposed to Jewish settlement in Palestinian districts of Jerusalem, said: "The attempt by Dr Moskowitz, backed by Jerusalem Municipality and by the Minister of the Interior, Mr Eli Suissa, will undoubtedly create a major political problem, similar to that which followed the opening of the tunnel in [the] Old City in September." On that occasion 60 Palestinians and 15 Israelis were killed.

To force through the plan for the 132 houses for Jews in Ras-al-Amud, Mr Suissa, who as former head of the Jerusalem Planning Committee supported the Moskowitz project, has said that a Palestinian plan to build 560 houses in the district will be conditional on the creation of the new Jewish neighbour-

But Naela Karain, a local resident, said: "This is discrimmation against us. We are gross-ly overcrowded ... We don't want a settlement here as in

Mr Suissa, a member of the religious party, Shas, shows no sign of relenting. The lews will build and the Arabs will build," he told Israel radio. "Everything will fall into place

ian leader in Jerusalem, says that he believes that, on the contrary. Dr Moskowitz's plan is a

■ Jerusalem (Reuter) — One Israeli was killed and three wounded in a drive-by shooting near the West Bank PLO-ruled town of Ramallah yesterday, Is-raeli emergency services said Security sources said an Israeli car was fixed on by a car bear-ing number plates issued to Patentians in the West Bank.

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Christopher Bellamy reports on new revelations about US role in Central America | Clinton aims

CIA 'was embroiled' in Contra drug fund

The CIA actively encouraged drug-trafficking in order to fund right-wing Contra rebels in Nicaragua during the 1980s, and a CIA agent in Nicaragua was employed to ensure the money went to the Contras and not into the pockets of drug barons, according to an investi-gation for ITV's The Big Story creened tonight.

It has previously been alleged that the US Central Intelligence Agency turned a blind eye to the drug traffic, and that this fuelled the crack epidemic in Los Angeles in the early 1980s, but the television investigation claims that its role was more active. The aircraft which brought weapons to the Contras took cocaine back to the US, while the CIA ensured that the profits went to the Contras, whom they were supporting against the

Marxist Sandinista government. The source of the allegations is a former pilot in the pre-Sandinista Nicaraguan Air Force, Carlos Cabezas. He was a strong supporter of the USbacked dictator, Anastasio Sonistas in 1979. Mr Cabezas was arrested in the US in 1983 after frogmen were captured smuggling drugs in San Francisco bay and spent six years in a US prison before returning to Nicaragua. He told the programme he had smuggled cocaine from Central America to San Francisco and taken the drug profits to the Miami headquarters of Contra leader. Adolfo Calero, and to Contra

troops in Costa Rica.

He also said he had met a CIA agent, Ivan Gomez, in Costa Rica who, he said, was there to make sure that all the profits went to the Contras and not into the back pockets of the drug dealers and smugglers.

They told me who he was

and the reason he was there." Mr Cabezas says in the programme. "It was to make sure the money was given to the right people and nobody was taking, you know ... profit they weren't supposed to

Although a trained pilot, Mr Cabezas' role was to carry drugs from Costa Rica to the US on board commercial flights, and government. But in 1991 he was



Dirty war: A new invesigation suggests CIA agent ensured Contra rebels in Nicaragua, not drugs barons, received cash

highlighted in the San Jose Mer-

cury in August. As part of the

Colombia, load up with co-

money from the US back again. The programme's producer at 2020 TV, Mark Rubens, said Mr Cabezas had spent a long time justifying his actions as essential to the Contra cause.

The programme approached Duane Claridge, a senior CIA officer in Washington, who planned and commanded the Contra war. He denied the CIA had ever dealt with drugrunners and said the operation

indicted for perjury, accused of hying to a Congressional investigation into the war. Mr Clar-Costa Rica and Honduras. In idge denied he had ever heard the late 1980s, Colombian coof Mr Cabezas or Mr Gomez. caine was flown aboard private The link between drugs and funding for the Contras was first planes into small arrields in northern Costa Rica and south-

ern Nicaragua. The programme also inter-viewed Celerino Castillo, an of-Contra supply operation in the early to mid-1980s, San Salvador ficer in the US Drug Enforceair force planes would fly to ment administration working in El Salvador. He was asked to incaine and land at a US Airforce vestigate suspicious activiities at the Ilopango air base in El Sal-

vador. Two hangars were operated by the CIA, he said, and the programme obtained copies of flight plans and names of in-dividuals flying money and drugs between the US and central America.

He said: "I was there. I saw it and sent it up to Washington. And it went into what we call the 'black hole'. I was told my career in the DEA would be shortened if I continued to write about Contras being in-volved in narcotics-trafficking."

for middle of the road

Rupert Cornwell Washington

Burned by experience and facing the continuing reality of a Re-publican-controlled Congress. President Bill Clinton yesterday sent the strongest of messages that he intends to continue the centrist policies which won him the White House in 1992, and which propelled him to a remarkable comeback in 1996.

Four years ago, Mr Clinton was elected as a "New Democrat", breaking with the big gov-ernment orthodoxy that had lost his party each of the three pre-vious elections. Yesterday he delivered his most important speech between re-election and next month's inauguration at the symbolic site of the Democratic Leadership Council, the moderate pressure group he once led and whose advocacy of more-discriminating government was the ideological launch pad of his first presidential bid.

Mr Clinton's hands are tied. With entrenched Republican majorities in both houses of Congress, compromise and "bipartisanship" are Washington's watchwords as he embarks on a second term. The centrist slant is already showing up in the second-term Cabinet: not only with the appointment of the outgoing Republican Senator William Cohen as Defense Secretary, and the nomination of the hawkish Madeleine Albright to the State Department, but in the jockeying for half a dozen domestic posts, too.

Pressure from black people. minorities and women's groups for top jobs, so conspicuous in the 1992 transition, is almost entirely absent this time. These favoured include William Daley. brother of Richard Daley, mayor of Chicago, and Congressman Bill Richards on of New Mexico. a Democrat who worked with President George Bush to support the Nafta trade agreement. In what would be a truly sunar dan

ins of

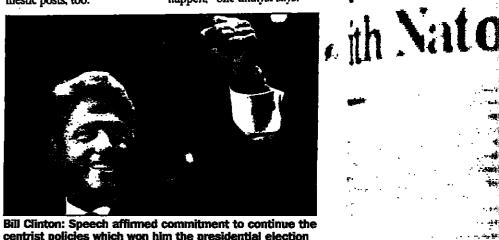
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dations

ning move, Mr Clinton has also considered replacing the Attorney General, Janet Reno with William Weld, the highly popular Republican Governor of Massachussetts. Any one of these would reinforce the centrist, pragmatic message the President delivered vesterday.

The personnel olive-branch-es have already been welcomed by Republicans. But it is in policy that the new bipartisanship will be truly measured. Mr Clinton's embrace of the Republican proposal to balance the budget by 2002 was his most spectacular single step to the centre in the 1996 campaign. The shortfall itself, at \$107bn

in fiscal 1996, is the smallest in a generation, while the gap be-tween Republican and Demo-cratic plans is eminently bridgeable. Still smarting however from Mr Clinton's campaign accusations that they were seeking to kill the pro-grammes, Republicans insist he makes the first move on such explosive terrain. "Either they walk in lockstep, or nothing will happen," one analyst says.



France and US lock horns over next UN chief

David Usborne

The game-plan of France was the single focus of attention at the UN yesterday as members of the Security Council sought to navigate through the maze of diplomatic bluffs, double-bluffs and triple-bluffs in the game of identifying the next UN Secretary Gener-

Further rounds of secret voting in the council yesterday confirmed Kofi

Annan, the Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping from Ghana, as the front-runner to replace Boutros Boutros-Ghali whose term expires at the end of December. Critically, however, the straw-poll voting once more showed opposition to Mr Annan from one of the council's permanent five widely assumed to be France.

France has been a supporter of a second term for Mr Boutros-Ghali, whose candidature was vetoed by the Unit- US, can be persuaded to back down ed States three weeks ago. Most ob- and allow his selection.

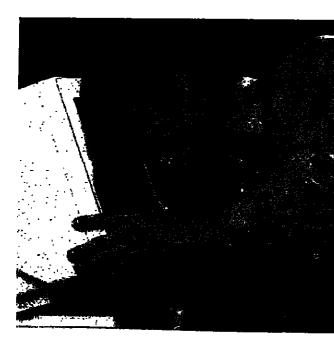
servers believe France is responding to the American veto by exercising its equal right to veto Mr Annan. Mr Annan is backed by the US. Britain appears also to support him though with less obvious enthusiasm.

Additional voting rounds were expected this week to assess the solidiof the French position. Supporters Mr of Annan are crossing fingers that Paris, once it has made its point to the

Consistent opposition by France to Mr Annan could kill his candidacy, however. There are three other new candidates from Africa, which, by unwritten convention, can expect to have one of their own in the Secretary General's office for the next five years. But so far none have attracted sufficient support to be electable. His closest rival is Amara Essy, the Foreign Minister of Ivory Coast. He got six votes in his favour yesterday, against 11 for

It is far from clear France's objections to Mr Annan are anything but political. An urbane, popular figure, he has dedicated his life to the organisa-tion and at 58 is seen as a competent if unexciting candidate for its most se-nior position. "This is about France's political pique with the United States," one diplomat said. "I don't think the Freach have anything to say about An-nan in terms of his qualifications, they just want to tell the Americans, 'We can play that game too'".

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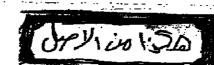
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'middle, the road

iton aim Battered and bleeding: Chechnya looks beyond ruins of a fallen empire

Phil Reeves

Given that he had every reason to believe that he would die on the battlefields of Chechnya, Sergei was understandably re-

lieved to be going home. But he was also indigmant.

"This place is an entirely different country," he said, standing beside his tank on the outskirts of Grozny. "I don't know what the war's objective was. It was simply misguided and

The 21-year-old Russian. along with thousands of other young men, was preparing to leave following the Kremlin's decision to withdraw from Chechnya before next month's

elections here. They are pack-ing their bags knowing they leave behind a bloodbath in a country that their army failed to tame, despite the loss of at least 4,000 Russian servicemen. It was a terrible war, even by the ghastly standards of the 20th century. Yesterday was the second anniversary of the day President Boris Yeltsin sent his troops in for what he believed would be a swift victory which would rejuvenate his populari-ty and crush the Chechen leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, who had proclaimed Chechnya an in-

dependent state in 1991. To his horror, the Chechens mounted a furious resistance and maintained it, even after the Russians systematically bombed



their villages, and carried on despite Mr Yeltsin's assurances to a scandalously indifferent West that military operations

WETE OVER.

"From the beginning, the war was characterised by massive, appalling violations of humanitarian law," said Human Rights Watch Helsinki in a report which warns that many problems have yet to be settled in the

aftermath of hostilities. But although the carnage was appalling – estimates of the death toll varies wildly from separatists, and will remain so although the carnage was appalling – estimates of the death toll varies wildly from 20,000 to 100,000 - the Chechens can claim some measure of success.

The Russian army has been humiliated by small force of rebels and is leaving, without disarming them. The shadow of Moscow will after the elections, scheduled for 27 January - two days after the Russians say their last soldier will

The war did not settle the most important issue of all: the republic's legal status. Under the August peace agreement, both

sides agreed to postpone a de-cision until 2001. They are main-taining what diplomats call "constructive ambiguity" over There is, however, nothing

ambiguous about their positions. Moscow insists Chechnya is part of the Russian Federation. The Chechens believe that they are an independent nation. "Of course we are not going to deny that we are an inde-pendent republic," said Brig-Gen Kasbek Makhashev, the Chechen Minister of the Interior. "Independence either exists or it doesn't. But we do understand that our relations

[with Moscow] must be established on mutually beneficial

While the republic's status is unresolved, the place remains in ruins of a fallen empire.

Homecoming: A Chechen refugee amid the rubble of Grozny

Photograph: Reuters

limbo. Few foreigners will want to invest without knowing whether it is a country or not. Yet it is in rains, in desperate need of money to rebuild the wrecked schools, universities, hospitals, institutes, roads, and

talented people to run them. Inevitably, all eyes turn to Russia Optimistic syunding discussions have taken place beween Moscow and Grozny about investment.But Russia is in financial chaos, unable to pay its coal miners and pensioners let alone its old enemies in the

Hope has fixed on a Russian-Chechen agreement over oil. One of two pipelines which will carry oil from the Caspian Sea runs from Baku to the Black Sea via Chechnya, Russia's desire to control the pipeline was another reason it started the war. A tariff-sharing deal may yield valuable income for the

Chechens. Yet it is hard to believe that this could ever supply the billions of dollars needed to rebuild their home. There are other flickers of hope: Chechnya has ties with Saudi Arabia and other Muslim nations, which may agree to chip in funds, especially if it means

deepening its Islamic roots. But it is all as cloudy as the winter log over the Caucasus mountains. Even the most optimistic economists would find it hard to believe that enough money will flow in to Chechnya to secure its destiny as a modern society, and not just a Third World bazaar, surrounded by the

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Russia eases relations with Nato

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

Russia took a step forward yes relations between Nato and terday at the second day of Russia which is good news as nated as the second day of Russia which is good news as nated as the second day of Russia which is good news as nated as the second day of Russia which is good news as the second day of Russia which is Russia and then Russian ministers.

other east European nations were present. The meeting was enlivened by the news that the Russians have a civilian Defence Minister for the first time in he had "millions of people" to their history, unless you count Trotsky and Stalin. General Igor Rodionov, who

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has just passed his 60th birth-day, has retired from the army but remains Defence Minister. thus neatly accomplishing a manoeuvre which the Russians might have found difficult. A civilian defence minister is seen as a key indicator of a Westernstyle democracy - Poland has one, but Ukraine and Russia -

until yesterday - did not. In Brussels, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov was "very positive" in meetings with the 16 Nato foreign Ministers in the "16 plus one" forum, although in the subsequent press conference he was critical of Nato's plans to enlarge to embrace new members from eastern Europe. The Russians privately accept that Nato en-largement will happen, but maintain opposition in public, probably for domestic consumption. Most importantly, Mr Primakov uncoupled discussion of Nato enlargement from cooperation with Nato

on other fronts. Later, other east European countries joined the discussions and Ukraine welcomed Nato's announcement it had no plans to move nuclear weapons into the territory of new members, including Ukraine's immediate neighbour, Poland.

The North Allantic Cooperation Council (NACC) forum includes Nato plus 26 Nato

"partners" from eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Nato sources also said Mr Pri-

Russia's demobilised Defence Minister recently said he, too, was convinced Nato was not a threat to Russia but that

convice. Mr Rodionov was born into a military family on 1 December 1936 and served as a tank officer. He served with the 40th Army in Afghanistan dur-ing the hardest fighting of the entire war, where he nearly lost a kidney after suffering debydration in the intense heat. Mr Rodionov's continuation

as the first "civilian" Defence Minister is highly appropriate because he has written extensively about civil-military relations and the touchy relationship between the Russian leadership and the army. In a recent article be said that although the political leadership understood. the need for an army, they were also "somewhat afraid" of it, and for this reason had "used any opportunity to demean the army and undermine its au-thority.



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Top Chinese marks for new HK leader

"Now we are finally masters of our own house", said the 59-year-old shipping magnate Tung Chee-hwa yesterday, after he was chosen to head the first post-colonial government in Hong Kong, making him the Chief Executive of the territory once it comes under Chinese rule on 1 July.

One hundred and fifty years of British colonial rule was about to end, he said, and it was up to the people of Hong Kong to "walk the road together".

Mr Tung's road was cleared by Peking. The Chinese made it clear that he was the favoured candidate and devised a selection process in which he won 320 of the 400 votes of the Selection Committee, a body mainly representing big-business interests and Peking's supporters.

The two other candidates in the so-called election, the former Chief Justice Sir Ti Liang Yang and the businessman Peter Woo each got around one tenth of the

votes won by Mr Tung.
"You are writing the history of Hong Kong", said Qian Qichen, China's vice-premier who presided over yesterday's 29 people, including the out-

Victory is sweet, but expected, for the colony's first Chief Executive, writes Stephen Vines

voting, "I trust you will make your choice with responsibility two fellow law-makers, were Surrounded by a careful recreation of Peking's Great Hall of the People in the rather arrested and dragged away screaming, for causing an ob-struction. She was later released more modern surroundings of and she returned to the Leg-Hong Kong's convention centre, islative Council to move a mothe committee's members tion casting doubt on whether showed they had quickly learned Chinese ways of doing things. The proposals of the Chinese leaders were enthusiastically en-Mr Tung would "have the de-termination to safeguard a high degree of autonomy for Hong Kong and resist the Chinese govdorsed by clapping. Discussion ernment's interference". was not on the agenda.
Outside the hall a small

group of protesters carried a

symbolic "tomb of democracy", saying democracy was being killed off by the Selection Com-mittee. "It's not an election by

the Hong Kong people", said Cheung Man-kwong, a legisla-tor who joined the demonstra-

tion, "it's just an appointment

As the voting got underway,

by the Chinese government".

SAVE UP TO

Meanwhile, government of-ficials, including the Governor Chris Patten, rushed to con-gratulate Mr Time. The most effusive greeting came from the Chief Secretary Anson Chan who described the election as a "very happy day". Mrs Chan had been the popular choice for the top post but China considered she was tainted by association with the British administration. Nevertheless she hopes to cling to the number-two post.

Even the Democratic Party, the colony's largest political party, was keen to offer a hand of co-operation to Mr Tung, although it has strongly opposed of the selection process.

Mr Tung and his entourage today crossed the border to Shenzhen where his nomination will be confirmed by the Preparatory Committee, the Chinese body with overall re-sponsibility for preparing the

hand over of power.

The crossing of the border was loaded with symbolism. It showed that real power no longer resides with the British administration in Hong Kong but in China where vesterday the Chinese foreign-ministry spokesman rather carelessly referred to Mr Timg as "our Chief Executive".

Now the fanfare is over, Mr Tung will face the formidable task of dealing with new masters who do not speak with one voice. Powerful factions, in-cluding provincial interests, the armed forces, the big state companies and the central government are competing for a slice of the Hong Kong action.



Holy vote: Two Buddhist monks, members of the Selection Committee, show off their ballot envelopes at voting for Hong Kong's first post-colonial Chief Executive. The shipping magnate Tung Chee-Inva won 80 per cent of the poll Photograph: AP

Crying in the rain on city streets paved with flowers

The temperature has dropped, and the city's flower gids have at last headed home. For the first time since last spring, ven-turing into some of Peking's best-established Westerners' restaurants no longer involves negotiating the pleading eyes of the urchins as they thrust out bunches of roses for sale. "Buy a flower. Five yuan [40p]," they

I stopped buying flowers after two girls explained that four of those five yuan would go to the

Girls are forced to sell blooms from lunch until midnight

adult "bosses" who ran the flower children. It made more sense to give them money for a stunted girl with bandy legs, ner was ice-cream and chocolate, whatever the season.

found outside a string of restaurants opposite the Workers' Stadium. Over the months. these two girls consistently told

girls, some as young as 10, from different villages in You county, Hunan province, about 1,000 miles south of Peking. And they had been brought to the city by some adults from their county who persuaded their parents to let them come. Under the deal, one yuan per flower sold was supposed to be collected and sent back to the parents. When the temperature nmmeted in December, they

would be allowed to go home. For Tang and Li it has been a miserable year. To our Western eyes, both looked about nine years old, dressed in dirty jeans and layers of sweaters against the cold and rain. Tang is the prettier of the two, and has had more success selling flowers. Li, better to stay home. Here the boss is nice only when you sell

flowers. But if you can't sell any, Many evenings, Tang Danan, flowers. But if you can't sell at 12, and Li Jinxian, 13, could be the boss curses us," said Li. The flower girls live on the Western outskirts of the city, and travel in every lunchtime with bus passes provided by the boss-

the same story: they were part of a group of about a dozen day during the week to sell, and 30 at the weekend. They ply their trade until nearly midnight. "When I go back, the boss will count the flowers. If he finds that I ate with the flower money, he will fine me 50 yuan," said Li.

The children work independently. "One day I sold eight and she only sold two. She cried and said the boss would curse her if she went home, but I persuaded her, don't do harm to yourself. I told her to come

back home," said Tang.
"That's because you sold so
many," said Li. "The boss's wife cut my hair as a punishment." She pointed to her stubby fringe, cut to make her look "It makes her look like an old

granny!" said Tang. "Just because I did not sell as stifling her sobs.

Tang was sent to Peking with her twin sister, leaving one sister at home in the village. Li has a vounger brother who is at home. In an area as poor as You county, peasants often need little encouragement to send

their young daughters out to work. But, needless to say, most of the money that was supposed to be sent to the girls' families never arrived. "I sold flowers for seven months, my family has only got 1,100 yuan [£84].

Both Tang and Li left school when they were nine. Said Li: 'When I was in school, I didn't like it. But after I dropped out. I saw other children go to school with bags, and I wanted to go back again." Tang nodded:

'The boss's wife cut my hair as punishment for not selling more'

"The bosses are rich, so they send their own children to school, not to sell roses."

(strike Hard) crackdown which was supposed to be directed against serious crime. Li was arrested. "The detention house was very dirty and smelly. I was only given corn bread. A lot of people seemed like lunatics."
Tang remembered: "When

she was sent back, she was very thin and dirty. She washed twice but was still not clean." By now, the flower girls will be back in their villages. The last time we talked, I asked if they had any dreams for the future? "I don't want to be a tailor like my cousin, I want to be a baby-

Teresa Poole

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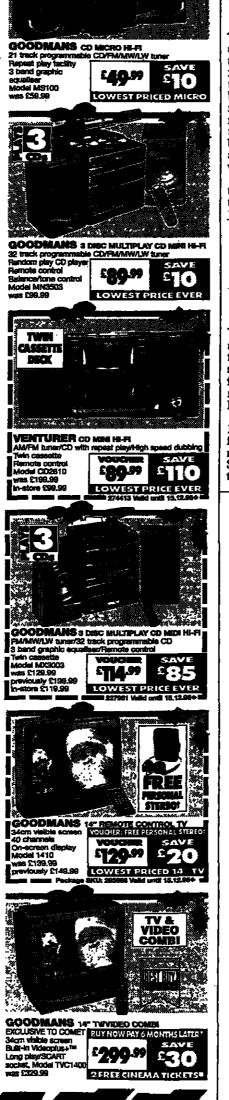
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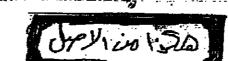


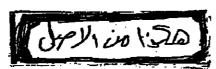
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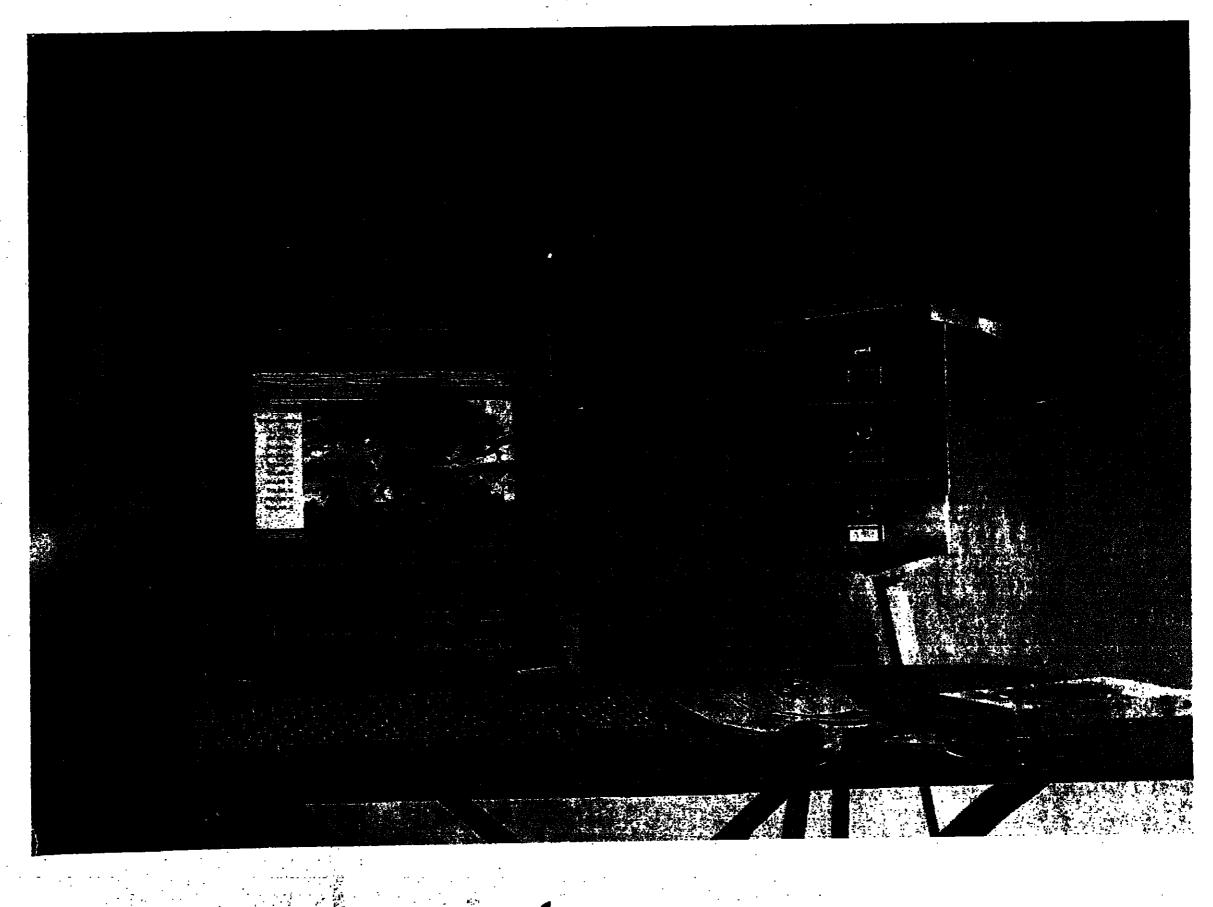


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Mafia trawls Venice's dark lagoon

Italy's jewel has become a haven for organised crime, writes Andrew Gumbel

international

Gianfranco Bettin, hopped across the lagoon one evening last month to have dinner with his parents in the industrial suburb of Marghera. The meal finished early, and shortly after 8.30pm he got in his car to drive home. Suddenly, a young thug jumped up from the back seat, grabbed him by the neck and put a pistol to his temple. "Drive," he ordered in a thick southern Italian accent.

Bettin drove to a remote wasteland, where he was ordered to stop and throw the car keys out of the window. A large black car pulled up behind. "Mr Mayor," said the young thug, tightening his grip around Bettin's neck and cocking his pistol, you should mind your own business." With that, he pulled the trigger. For a second Bettin thought he was dead, but in fact all he heard was a light click. He was terrified, but still alive. The thug snarled: "Next time the gun will be loaded." Then he got out of the car.

It could have been a scene from an American gangster movie. In Venice, it seemed utterly out of place. This is the miraculous lagoon city, the ultimate symbol of civilisation, a tourist mecca and capital of one of Italy's most prosperous regions: in Venice people aren't supposed to do things like that. And yet, as much of Italy has

been shocked to learn, they do. La Serenissima may be a jewel of western civilisation, but in the past few years it has also become an outpost of frenetic, and lucrative. Mafia activity. Money-laundering, drugs trafficking and illegal arms dealing are booming in the Venice region, and with them extortion, armed robbery, kidnapping and murder. Many rackets are in the hands of local gangs, but as prosecutors and politicians such as Deputy Mayor Bettin have discovered the traditional Mafias of Sicily, Calabria and

The deputy mayor of Venice, mock execution, Bettin had been hot on the heels of a Neapolitan Mafia convict called Crescenzo Napolitano, who had taken full advantage of being assigned to live in Marghera - a sort of internal exile ordered by the courts - by plugging into the Venetian organised crime circuit and terrorising the community. The Sicilians are active in laundering money via casinos both in the Venice area and across the border in Slovenia. The Calabrians have established a network of hotels, restaurants and other tourist money-spinners again, in the interests of recy-cling the illegal gains of drugs, arms and other major interna-

Take a gondola ride in Venice and you may be contributing directly to a Mafia money-laundering operation. Take up the gondolier's recommendation of a cosy restaurant and you may be helping the criminals further. Go to the municipal casino on the Grand Canal, and the chances are that your cashier will be a placeman for the Mob. It's not that the authorities are refusing to do anything about this; they are unable to keep up with it. No sooner is one batch of crooked casino cashiers arrested than another takes its place. Hotels and pizzerias, according to a report by the anti-Mafia investigator Giovanni Verdicchio, change owners "at an alarmingly high rate".

There are two reasons why the Venice region has become so attractive to organised crime. The first is the economic boom which began in the 1960s and has turned the area into one of the richest in Europe. Not only can the Mob count on a cut of the construction industry, muscle in on tourism, establish a lucrative prostitution racket and sell drugs to the children of the affluent middle classes, but it can also use the region's businesses and financial institutions to launder its gains from Naples are muscling in, too. international narcotics and In the weeks leading up to his arms trade. According to Gen-



Murky water: For centuries regarded as a centre of Western civilisation, Venice is now acquiring a quite different itation as an outpost of frenetic, and highly lucrative, Mafia activity Photograph: Brian Harris

eral Verdicchio, the Mafia runs some 8,500 finance companies in the region, 500 in Venice. The second reason is the

lifting of the Iron Curtain and the opening of vast new criminal markets in eastern Europe. Yugoslavia is a stone's throw away. In a recent trial, it emerged Italian arms traders were phoning up the Slovenian police and arranging deliveries arms by boat across the Adriatic with the same ease as ordering take-out pizza. For years, the leader of the

region's gangland activities was a charismatic rogue called Felice Maniero who was considered a folk hero for his audacious and unorthodox armed robberies. Nicknamed

Angel Face for his boyish features, he once walked out of customs at Venice airport with 170 kg of gold. On another occasion, he persuaded the manager of the Hotel des Bains on

main gates to pick him up. And yet Maniero was a nasty piece of work, a self-confessed Just by taking a ride on a gondola

looking the other way as a

group of friends dressed up as

carabinieri drove through the

you may be contributing directly to a money-laundering operation

the Lido to hand over £2m worth of jewellery and cash belonging to the hotel guests. His magic touch extended to jailbreaks - including one from a high security prison in Padua where he bribed the guards into

multiple murderer responsible for setting up the network of organised crime in the northeast and forging links with the southem Mafia bosses.

In 1992, the authorities set up a regional branch of their ning.

force and two years later, Maniero and 101 others were sentenced to long jail terms. The collapse of Maniero's empire has left a vacuum at the top of the Venetian Mafia, but has not brought the criminal activity to an end. "The boss, his generals and colonels may have been neutralised but the rest are still hard at work," Gianfranco Bettin warned in the wake of his

brush with death. What his mock execution shows is that a power struggle for the Venetian rackets is in full swing, the results of which are likely to be unpredictable and dangerous. The attack on Bettin could be just the begin-

significant shorts

Algerian rebels kill 20 in bus attack

Algerian Muslim rebels killed International police in 20 passengers on an overnight bus, apparently by slitting their throats, in an attack just south of the capital Algiers early yesterday, according to an official statement.

The guerrillas forced the bus to stop as it travelled in the Benhamdani area in Blida province at about 3am. Algerian security forces said the 20 people were killed "in a cowardly way", a phrase used for attacks in which victims have their throats cut. Seven people were wounded in the raid. The latest attack brought to nearly 60 the number reported killed in Biida province in under a week The provincial capital of the same name is just 30 miles south of Algiers.

Reuter - Paris

Mandela signs abortion bill

President Nelson Mandela has signed South Africa's new abortion bill, clearing the way for one of the world's toughest abortion laws to be replaced with one of the most liberal. The law gives girls of any age the sole right to decide whether to have an abortion.

Push on panda

programme China has set out to breed more pandas in captivity. Eight panda cubs were born in captivity this year and three of them survived, Chiпа News Agency said. China hopes that a mating programme and artificial mination would boost the number of panda pregnancies to between 40 and 60 over the next four years. It hopes

80 per cent will survive.

Nato force sees Karadzic under Serb escort

Bosnia said they spotted the Radovan Karadzic under armed escort but the Natoled force took no action to arrest him. International police monitors saw Mr Karadzic in a Jeep on Monday, escorted by special police in the Serb government seat of Palc,

outside Sarajevo. A spokesman for the UN police said: "In the back seat with the window open the monitors saw one of the most wanted men on the planet, Radovan Karadzic, enjoying the view." Reuter - Sarajeva

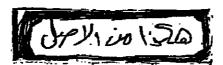
The secret of Mao's tea set

Porcelain made secretly under military guard for the Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung are to be sold at auction on Saturday. The rice bowls, tea cups and other pieces were ordered for Mao in 1975. when his cult of personality was at its height. Mao's aides ordered that it be of unsurpassed quality and fired at 1,400C, hotter than the 1,300C used to fire pottery in imperial times. AP - Peking

Finns bail out Bethlehem

A day after Bethlehem officials said they lacked the money to celebrate Christmas properly, Finland announced it was sending a 40ft Christmas tree and a Santa Claus to the West Bank town. The 40-year-old tree will stand in Manger Square outside the Church of the Nativity. The Santa will arrive with the Christmas Day procession and will entertain pilgrims and visitors. assisted by Palestinian children dressed as gnomes. AP - Jerusalem





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Faron Young

if perhaps an occasionally underrated one.

His appealing, expressive tenor was equally at home with both ballads and up-tempo numbers; and whilst he could croon effortlessly, the more dramatic and emotive approach that he favoured on many of his 1950s recordings confirms him as an important link between Hank Williams and many of the country stars who have followed.

Over a nearly 50-year career Young enjoyed a string of hits, some 42 of them making it into the country Top Ten. Dur-ing that time he championed many of the genre's most important songwriters, "discovered" the likes of Roger Miller and Kris Kristofferson and became one of Nashville's most memorable characters.

If he also appeared somewhat reckless, it seemed only to endear him to his fans even more. Over the years he weathered alcoholism, marital problems and several brushes with the law he was famously convicted of assaulting a minor in 1972 - yet few could have anticipated his

a dairy farmer, at Shreveport, Louisiana, in 1932. He began performing whilst still in his teens and was inevitably drawn to the area's most important radio show, the KWKH Louisiana Hayride. This, the so-called "Cradle of the Stars" was, from 1948, a springboard to national celebrity for many of the country's leading performers, in-cluding Hank Williams, Jim Reeves, Jim Horton and even Elvis Presley. Having built up a local following Young was asked to join the show's cast and

try music's greatest vocalists, tured vocalist with the honkytonk star Webb Pierce.

In 1952 however, and in common with many others at the Hayride, he was lured to Nashville's prestigious WSM Grand Ole Opry. Capitol Records signed him to a contract and his future looked assured until the Korean War intervened. Drafted, he was assigned to performing for the troops, working with a young actor and announcer named Leonard Nimoy.

Whilst on leave, Young went into the recording studio and cut "Goin' Steady", a No 2 hit in 1953. Following his discharge a year later he returned to Nashville and rapidly established himself as one of the maior hitmakers of the era, scoring with, among others: "If You Ain't Lovin' (You Ain't Livin')" (1954), "Live Fast, Love Hard and Die Young" (1955), "I Miss You Aiready" (1957), "Alone With You" (1958) and "Backtrack" (1961).

Young had a fine ear for quality songwriting and, in addition to recording numbers by veter-ans like Ted Daffan ("I've Got Five Dollars and It's Saturday icide. Night"), was among the first to Young was born, the son of cut songs by the likes of Roy Drusky ("Country Girl"), Bill Anderson ("Riverboat"), Don Gibson and Willie Nelson. Gibson's classic "Sweet Dreams" charted for Young in 1956, and five years later he took Nelson's "Hello Walls" all the way to No 1. Young and Nelson remained friends and in 1985 cut a fine duet album together, Funny

How Time Slips Away. Others who benefited from Young's encouragement in-cluded the country star Johnny Paycheck, whom he employed as a bass guitarist, the singer,

Faron Young was one of coun-found himself working as a fea-songwriter and actor Kris Kristofferson, and Roger Miller, who had been working as a Nashville bell-hop until Young took him on as a drummer.

All the while, Young had been enjoying a parallel career in films, though the results, including the western Hidden Guns (1956), in which he appeared opposite Angie Dickin-son, and Country Music Holiday (1958) are largely and justifiably forgotten. It was, however, his work in the former that was to give him his nickname: "The Singing Sheriff".

In 1962 Young left Capitol and signed to Mercury Records. The hits continued with "You'll Drive Me Back (Into Her Arms Again)" (1963), "Walk Tall" (1965) and the Kristofferson song, "Your Time's Coming" (1969). In 1972 Young enjoyed an international crossover success with Jerry Chesnut's waltz "It's Four in the Morning", a record that made it into the British Top Ten.

As the hits began to dry up, Young concentrated increasingly upon his extensive business interests, including publishing houses, a talent agency and the Nashville country music

magazine Music City News. Three years ago, when Willie Nelson was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, he made a plea for Faron Young to soon follow. That richly deserved honour cannot now be

Faron Young, country singer, actor and songwriter: born Shreveport, Louisiana 25 February 1932; married (four children; marriage dissolved); died Nashville, Tennessee 10 December 1996.



Kashiwado

In the last few years, the noble first sumo troupe visited Paris, Japanese art of sumo, the na-tional sport par excellence, preciative audiences that inhas become increasingly popular in the West. When the course, the whole atmosphere to witness sumo bouts, they were incredulous - just as they were when the first drama for America and Europe. To brilliantly hued heavy aprons native displays of artistic and sporting techniques that in Japan were regarded as understandable "only by a

cluded many Japanese. Of Japanese first heard that of ritual and feudal authority Western audiences were going associated with a true sumo arena was lacking. But some of the ceremonial was observed, with the entrance of the sumotroupes of kibuki and noh left tori in the ring, wearing their their great surprise, Westerners under the hanging curtained were able to appreciate these roof. It is always an impressive sight, a procession of ponderous gravity. On that occasion, my favourite sumotori. Kirishima, who was fairly slender compared with some of I well remember when the the heavyweights like Konishi-

ki. was dubbed "the Alain Delon of Japan", which I thought was not much of a compliment for that beautiful

athlete. Like many of the best wrestlers, Kashiwado came from one of the northern provinces, Yamagata. His family name was Togashi, and he first appeared in the Bumo ring in 1954, from the Ise no Umi stable. He had endured the severe hardships of apprenticeship and worked hard every day to improve his physique and his fighting spirit that was to make him one of the very beat sumo wrestlers in the history of

In 1958, he made the first step upwards in the pyramidal structure of sumo status when his name first appeared on the banzuke or list of wrestlers appearing in the basho or contest. He made such good progress, he was elevated in 1960 to the rank of ozeki, and won fight after fight until in October 1961 he acceded to the long position of Zokozuna or Grand Cham-

demanding sport with its care-fully graded hierarchies and venerable traditions. For the sport of sumo dates back to almost mythological

pion, a meteoric rise such as has

rarely been seen in such a

Nihon Shoki or "Chronicle of na he won five basho. He retired Japan" 's 30 volumes, completed in 720 AD. It is therefore a great achievement to reach the rank of Grand Champion. In the same year, Kashiwado's great rival, Taiho, was also elevated to Grand Champion, and their legendary bouts gave rise to the name hakuho, describing the period in which their fame

Kashiwado in his long career won 599 times, lost 240 bouts. While he was Grand Champion, he had 407 wins and 107 losses. Altogether, as Zokozu-

and popularity grow by leaps

and bounds, and thus helped to improve the standing of the

from the ring, in the middle of a match, during the 1969 July basho, before a shocked but deeply moved audience, many of them in tears.

He then set up his own sumo stable, the Kagamiyama-beya, in Tokyo's Edogawa Ward. He also served as a director of the Japan Sumo Association, heading its referee committee until

James Kirkup

Togashi Tsuyoshi ("Kashiwa-do"), sumo wrestler: born Yamagata, Japan 1938; married (two daughters); died Tokyo 8 December 1996.

Howard E. Rollins Jnr

times, and was mentioned in the



Fighting for what I want': Rollins in the 1988 television series of In the Heat of the Night

The actor Howard E. Rollins Jur made his film debut in Milos Forman's Ragtime (1981) as Coalhouse Walker, the cool, sophisticated ragtime pianist who becomes head of a group of black revolutionaries. Variety praised his "staggeringly effective portrayal of consciencewracked pride" and "intense screen magnetism that bodes instant stardom"

For a time it looked as if Rollins would become Sidney Poitier's successor. However, in spite of unanimous praise from the critics, and an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor (which he lost to John Gielgud in Anhur), Rollins made only one other film appearance. This was A Soldier's Story (1984), adapted by Charles Fuller from his stage play, and

directed by Norman Jewison, who had made Sidney Poitier's In the Heat of the Night (1967). Rollins gave another memorable performance as the stylish, self-assured but intense Captain Richard Davenport one of the first black officers in the US Army, who arrives in a racially segregated training camp in wartime Louisiana to investigate the murder of a black sergeant. But this time there was no Oscar recognition or any follow-up movie roles. Years passed before Hollywood

felt ready to promote a serious black actor: Denzel Washington. Rollins was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and upset his family when he dropped out of college to work full-time as an actor. He joined the cast of a television soap produced in

Baltimore called Our Street, but his mother was not convinced he'd made the right choice. "Black folks just don't become movie stars," she told him. His father tried to persuade him to "get a good job". Several years later he moved

to New York, and gained valuable stage experience with the Player's Workshop. Television roles followed, including as the top US politician Andrew Young in the mini-series King (1978) about Martin Luther King, and as George Haley in Roots: the next generations (1979). He said that Ragtime transformed him overnight from a "no-name that nobody knew" to an Oscar-nominated Hollywood celebrity. In 1986, in an interview with Britain's lead-

ing black newspaper, the Voice,

Viscount, naval commander, 1724;

he reflected on his role as Coalhouse Walker in Ragtime: "He had been insulted and assaulted, so his efforts towards retribution were understandable. After he had exhausted all legal means, he was only left with the situation that if you don't understand, then I'll give you something to understand - and

what I want . . . in my case it's my career." In the wake of his success in A Soldier's Story, there was talk of Rollins starring in a film about Nelson Mandela, as well as playing Othello with Al Pacino as lago. Regrettably, neither project materialised. In 1986 Rollins came to London to appear opposite Paul Scofield

that is violence. The one parallel

with my own life is fighting for

I'm Not Rappaport and, in 1988, he took the lead in a television series based on Poitier's In the Heat of the Night. Sadly, he was written out of the series because of his addiction to drugs. Carl Weathers replaced him.

In the late 1980s, when asked about his infrequent film appearances, he explained: "I'm not turning down any work. I haven't been approached with anything substantial. I don't like to say it, but it can only be because I'm black. Why else wouldn't studios take advantage of an actor who's acknowledged as capable."

Stephen Bourne

Howard E. Rollins, actor. born Baltimore, Maryland 17 October 1950; died New York 8 in the West End production of December 1996.

Sir Basil Nield

Basil Nield personified Shake-speare's view that a man in his life plays many parts. In Nield's case, with great distinction, he pursued the roles of lawyer, churchman, politician, soldier

and bon viveur. He and his twin sister, Beryl, were the youngest of five chil-dren born to Charles Edwin Nield, a solicitor, JP and Registrar of the Liverpool High Court. Their mother was an MBE and PhD - the first female graduate ever to obtain a doctorate at St Andrews University.

Nield was educated at Harrow (where he served as a gov-ernor, 1961-71) and Magdalen College, Oxford, during which time he became chairman of the Chester Conservative Association. In 1925 at the age of 22 he was called to the Bar of the Inner Temple and entered chambers in Liverpool, where he practised in general common law, on the Northern Circuit. His meticulous preparation, the quality of his advocacy and his unfailing courtesy made it obvious that he was destined for success at the Bar, and his practice grow. He then entered the chambers of David Maxwell Fyfe Clater Lord Kilmuir and a Tory Lord Chancellor). He and his wife Sylvia became his closest friends. In 1938, foreseeing correct-

ly the implications of the Munich crisis, he joined the Of-ficers' Emergency Reserve. Meanwhile, in 1940 he entered the House of Commons as Conservative Member for Chester. The same year he was commissioned into a captain's rank, and served successively as major, GHQ Middle Eastern Force (MEF) and, in 1942, as President, Palestine Military Courts, Jerusalem, and on the HQ staffs of East Africa Force, Eritrea and the Eighth Army, Persia and Iraq, and of the Second Army through the Low Countries and on the Rhine. He was mentioned in despatches when serving as Deputy Judge Advocate General in the MEF. His service in these roles was recognised by a MBE (mil) and his advancement to lieutenant colonel as Judge Advocate, sitting in on the courts martial in Germany.



Meld: accuracy in judgment

He was returned to the Commons in the 1945 general elec-tion despite the Labour landslide. Coincidentally, he applied for and took Silk. He now ran his political and legal lives in parallel. As the Member for Chester he successfully sponsored what for him was a

landmark: a Private Member's Bill, leading to the Adoption of Children Act, 1949. He saw it as the precursor to a save of affairs in which in matter and inheritance and succession an adopted child would be in a position similar to that of a

natural child. Nield was among the most dapper of the Members. Five foot seven and shiningly shod. his penetrating brown eves missed nothing. A provocative and witty speaker and a great debunker of pomposity, Nield was popular both in the Commons and his constituency.

In 1948 he served as Recorder of Salford and, in 1952 was elected Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple. His advancement to CBE took place in 1956, at which time, too. he was chosen as the first permanent judge of the Crown Court Manchester. This meant that he had to leave the House of Commons; a change which exhilarated him, though he missed the cut and thrust of parliamentary debate.

Such was the accuracy of Nield's judgments that it was rare for a sentence of his to be altered on appeal. Always humanitarian, however, in his dealings, he is on record as having modified one of his own sentences. After thinking all weekend about a prison sentence he had imposed, he had the man brought back into court from the cells. He told him that he might have been too severe and he reduced the

Always assiduous in his work as a judge, nevertheless Nield had an eye for the lighter side of life, in and out of court. This was the genesis of his book Farewell to the Assizes (1972), a series of entertaining memoirs illustrated by his own linedrawings and photographs. It marked too his singular achievement as the only judge to have sat in all 61 Assize towns in England and Wales before the abolition of the Assize system in 1972.

It was appropriate that the graceful dedication of the book should be to his twin sizer, a mayor of Chester, to whom he was extremely close and who. like him, never married. She helped him a great deal when he was an MP and often sat beside him on the Bench. Her death, 20 years ago, was a heavy blow to him.

Forever restless, Nield loved to travel. He was a great "collector" of cities all over the world. A keen and accomplished photographer, he used his beautiful pictures to illustrate his Christmas cards, which were much prized among his

Equally prized were his birthday and Christmas parties in his flat in the Temple. There, his sparkle and charm were let free among his great variety of friends. There too he achieved one of the honours he prized above all: Treasurer of the Inner Temple.

His last years were spena n the King Edward VII Convalescent Home for Officers, at Osborne House in the Isle of

Basil Edward Nield, judge and politician: born 7 May 1903; called to the Bar, Inner Temple 1925, Master of the Bench 1952, Reader 1976, Treasurer 1977; MP (Conscrvative) City of Chester 1940-56; MBE (mil) 1943, CBE 1956; KC 1945; Recorder of Salford 1948-56; Recorder and first permanent Judge of Crown Coun at Manchester 1956-60; Kt 1957: Judge of High Court of Justice. Queen's Bench Division 1960-78; died 4 December 1996.

BIRTHS

CILAMBRE: To Sarah and Peter, Hugo Frederick, born 10 December, a brother for the garls. RICE: To Matthew and Emma, a daughter, Margaret Sarah, 10 De-tember 1996.

DEATHS

FOX Michelle Simone, on 9 December 1996, aged 30. Film-maker, dancer and choreographer, in London, After a courageous light bravely borne, Behred danghter of Edwin and Joseehn, most loved saster to Jacqueline. Geridd and Claudine, and long-time law of Jereny, Her most special spirit lives on in us all. She will be most surely missed by terfamily and wide cruck of friends. The timeral will take place at the Cemelery, Edgware Bury Lane, Edgware, at 1pm on Fridw 12 December, Pravers will be held at the Lundy home in Chelsen on Thursday 11 December at 8pm, All friends welcome, lide phone 0171-376 4162 for details. ne 0171-376 4162 for details.

prime 01/15/04/10, for octalls.

HARE: Dr Edward H. Hare FRCP
FRCP-9ach MD MA, ducal peacetable
on S December 1966, at large College Hospital, aged 79 years. Will be
greatly missed by his wife Fib., aster Betty, daughter Anne and grand-daughters Lane and Louisa Funeral at Beckenham Crematorium, Tuesday 17 December at 11.30am, Family

LEEDILAM-GREEN: Dr Mary, peacehully, on 9 December at 5t Andrew's Care Centre, Bottsham, 5ged 84, much-loved mother of Charles and Elisabeth, and grandmother of Richard Kay and Sarah, Cremation in Cambridge: service at Trumping-ton Parish Church, at 12 noon, on Fri-

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen open the new valuation from Westmoster's entre, London SW). The Parent Market Parties of the Contradd Instants of Aux Trees, tests and Children of the north of Williams Characters, and Children of the north of Williams Characters.

Births. Marriages & Deaths

day 20 December, interment of ash-es at Southwold, Suffolk service at St es in Southwood, Suifolic service at St. Edmand's Church, at 2 pm on Friday 3 January. No flowers, please, but donations, if desired, to Newtham College Development Trust (c/o Mrs C. Cocke, Newtham College, Cam-bridge) or Friends of Southwold Hospital.

SAMUEL: Raphael, historian, died at home, his unique spirit invanquished, a beloved teacher, comrade, friend and husband. Burial at Highgate Cemetery, Swains Lane, on 18 December, at 1,30pm. Memorial meeting to be announced.

IN MEMORIAM

BURROWS: Donald Ivan, died on 12 December 1991, A much-loved hus-band and father, Hélène. KERKEZ: Steve. Died 12 December 1995, aged 41. "We may lament that the rose tree has thorus - or rejoice, that the thorn tree has roses." Thank you for your joy, your passion and your

Approvements for Gazette BIRTHS MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be MAKRIMES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5Dia, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 26.50 at line 3/42 meters.

London W.C. The Princess Bayas, Patron, the Ba-tee Mallo Agency, attends the End of Year Re-ception at County-twendth (Inste. London WC), as Installent, the Princess Bossal Tru a for Casery,

Forthcoming marriages

Mr B. G. R. Kellett and Miss C. P. McGrath

The engagement is announced between Benedict, second son of Mr and Mrs R.R. Kellett, of Staines, Middlesex, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. McGrath, of Graffham,

Birthdays

Miss Tracy Austin, tennis player, 36; Mr Lionel Blair, dancer and entertainer, 65; Maj-Gen Sir Rupert Brazier-Creagh, former Director of Staff Duties, War Office, 87; Mr Will Carting, England rugby player, 31: Miss Denise Coffey, actress, director and writer, 60; Mr Jasper Conran, fashion designer, 37: Kenneth Cranham, actor, 52; The Hon Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody MP. 66; Mr William Ebbert, chairman and managing director, Vauxhall Mo-tors, 54; Miss Connic Francis, singer, 58: Mr Roy Grantham, former national secretary, Apex. 70; Air Commodore Dame Felicity Hill, former Director, WRAAF, 81; Dr Philip Ledger, Principal, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, 59: Mr Christopher Mullin MP, 49; Mr Frank Sinatra, singer and actor. 31; Mr Clive Thornton, chairman, Gabriel Communications, 67: The Right Rev John Wakeling, former Bishop of Southwell, 78; Miss Dionne Warwick, singer, 55.

the Missister to Senarco, attends a Carth Consert at Merchant Livine, Hall, London E.C., The Jude of Kent, Patron, the Leubaemus Research Fund, attends a Card Concert, at the Royal Affect Hall, London SWF, Princers Michael of Kent attends the Workshold Common of Empirical

Anniversaries Births: Admiral Samuel Hood, First

Edvard Munch, painter, 1863; Ededvard Muncu, painter, 1905; Ed-ward G. Robinson (Emanuel Gold-enburg), actor, 1893; John James Osborne, playwright and actor, 1929. Deaths: Darius II Nothus ("The Bastard"), King of Persia, 404 BC; Robert Browning, poet, 1889; Tallu-lah Brockman Bankhead, actress,

1968. On this day: the first transat lantic radio signal was transmitted by Marconi, 1901; the first mote opened, in California, 1925; the first London production of the musical show West Side Story was staged, 1958. Today is the Feast Day of St Corentin or Cury, St Edburga of Minster, Soints Epimachus and Alexander, S Finnian of Clonard, St Jane France de Chantel and St Vicelin.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Pippa Shirley, "Silver" (talk for visitors with visual impairments), 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Clement Page, "The Emancipation of Colour and Form: Expressionism in modern European

British Museum: Hilary Williams "Subject and Media: the remarkable range of Michelangelo drawings in the British Museum", 1.15pm. National Portrait Gallery: Jacob Simon, "The Art of the Picture Frame framing at the National Portrait Gallery 1856-1996", 1,10pm.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavairy Mounted Registers mounts the Queen's Late Guard at Horse Guards Ham, Niptegen Company Greender Guard mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace

Payment of lesser sum did not settle claim

Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Henry, Lord Justice Aldous) 21 November 1996

Acceptance by the plaintiff of a lesser sum from the defendant than the amount claimed could not constitute accord and satisfaction so as to compromise the action between them unless the plaintiff received some additional benefit by way of consideration.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the plaintiff, Michael Ferguson, against the decision of Judge Crane, sitting in Northampton County Court on 19 July 1994, dismissing his claim for money due under a contract with the defendant, Steven Clive Davies. The plaintiff in person; Terry Lynch (J. Garrard & Allen, Otney, Bucks) for the defendant.

Lord Justice Henry said the plaintiff, wishing to dispose of some specialist records, tapes and discs, agreed with the defendant, who dealt in such items, that the defendant would provide in exchange other specialist items sought by the plaintiff to the wholesale value of £600 by a certain date. failing which the defendant

LAW REPORT

12 December 1996

fact the defendant only deliv- tal amount claimed. He wrote ered goods to the value of £143.50 and made a single payment of £5.

The plaintiff claimed there was due to him approximately £1,550. However, he originally limited his claim to £486.50, per-

haps to keep it within the small claims jurisdiction. His claim was set out on the County Court's N1 default summons. The defendant completed from N9B, a form of defence and counterclaim to be filled in if he disputed all or part of the claim. In answer to the ques-

tion "How much of the claim

do you dispute?" he ticked the box "I admit the amount of ..." and inserted £150. In answer to the question "Do you dispute the claim because you have already paid it?" he ticked "Yes" and wrote that he had then added that he had sent a

cheque for £150. He sent the cheaue to the court with a letter saying the cheque was in settlement of the plaintiff's account, and that he did not dispute that he owed would pay £1,700 in cash. In him money but disputed the to- out prejudice as part of an of-

now resolve the matter The plaintiff cashed the cheque but replied that he was continuing with the action until he received full payment. He got leave to amend his claim upwards to £1,745.79.

The judge found for the plaintiff on the contractual issues, holding that a further £1,400 was due from the defendant. He also found that the plaintiff had not intended to accept the £150 in full settlement, but nevertheless held that his doing so had compromised his claim by a binding accord and satisfaction.

It was clear that the judge did not address his mind to the fact that the sending of the cheque for £150 was an unqualified admission of liability, paid £450 to the plaintiff. He nor to the significance of such an admission.

An open admission of money due was something quite different from an offer of a sum in compromise. It was manifest that the formal admission on form N9B was not made with-

fer to compromise, but was properly before the court on the question of liability.

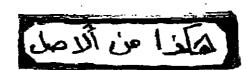
The judge erred in law in that he did not consider the legal significance of the fact that the defendant had unequivocally admitted liability for the sum paid by cheque, and was not giving the plaintiff any additional benefit on top of that Therefore there was in law no consideration for the accord suggested.

Nor did the judge pay regard to the scheme of the County Court Rules governing cases where an admission was cou-pled with an assertion that the remainder of the claim had been paid. Against that background, it was wrong to conclude that the cashing of the cheque, sent as a result of a formal and unqualified admission on the pleadings, constituted "a clear and unequivocal acceptance that no further sum was due" because of a side letter seeking to impose a term for which there was no consideration once admission had been

Had be directed himself properly, he would inevitably e decided that there was no

binding accord.

Paul Magrath, Barrister



Labour must come clean on monetary union

quite probably throwing away the next election in order to keep open an option that Britain almost certainly will not take up. It is even more strange that the issue is one which bores the pants off most voters.

ir Basil Nie

American political consultants ask how an issue "plays in Peoria", the archetypal Midwest small town. The Sun this week confirmed how the single European currency plays in our equivalent, Basildon. Its Mori poll in The Town Where The Last Election Was Lost found 64 per cent opposed to replacing the pound with the euro. But The Sun's Europhobic glee was tempered by another finding: that Europe ranked only ninth in the list of issues bothering the voters there. However, the phobes are right at least in this: that the question is one of the most important facing the country, and that the voters ought to bother about it more.

The other peculiarity of the Tory arty's protracted suicide is that Labour is just as unclear about precisely the same issue. Although Tony Blair is not under the same pressure from his own party to rule out adopting the euro when it is launched in two years' time, he seems just as evasive with the voters. Partly that is because the Tories are in government, while Labour still enjoys some of the irresponsibility of opposition. But the main

here is something rather pecu-liar about the Conservative Party reason why the Tories are so much more divided than Labour is because the split is not really about the narrow question of whether or not to join in monetary union on 1 January 1999. For the Tories, much more than for Labour, the real issue is the terms of our membership of the European Union. It is becoming increasingly clear that if the Tories lose the election they will go into the following election under a Eurosceptic leader pledged to "renegotiate" the terms of Britain's membership. This is what lends its particular unreality to Kenneth Clarke's campaign to keep the 1999 option open.

Which brings us to the party which seems at present more likely to form the government next spring. There is at least a case for arguing that Mr Blair's stance on monetary union probably now matters more to people's everyday future lives than Mr Major's views, which matter more to the future of the Conservative Party. So what is Labour's position? Last month, Gordon Brown promised that there would be a referendum if a Labour government wanted to join in the next parliament. This was significant mainly as confirmation that Britain is very unlikely to join in the first wave. Public opinion is not ready for it - unlike other European countries, where the decision was made when the Maastricht Treaty was signed in 1993. The British may not care that much about Europe,



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

but they know what they don't like. And, frankly, the British economy is not ready for it either.

But something else important has happened in the last few months. Two of the Shadow Cabinet's leading doubters have decided that Britain cannot afford to remain outside the single currency for long. Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary, said last month: "If a single currency proceeds I personally very much doubt whether is possible in the medium term for Britain to stay out." This could mean joining in a "delayed first wave" with Italy, in, say, 2002. David Blunkett,

another former sceptic who is likely to be a powerful figure in a Labour Cabinet, agrees. As a result, John Prescott, who described himself bluntly as "not a fan of the single currency" during the party's leadership election two years

ago, would have to fall into line. Indeed it may no longer be strictly relevant what Labour politicians think of the single currency. Note that we have not heard for some time that the party is "in favour in principle". Instead, the line is that it could have benefits, but there are also disadvantages. The terms of the debate have

now almost certain to go ahead. But it is not too late to influence many of the important decisions about its launch. This week Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac failed to resolve their differences over France's demand for a more politically accountable European Central Bank. This is an opportunity for Mr Blair, because it is also Labour's policy that EU finance ministers should set the rules under which the Central Bank operates. And it is not just an opportunity for Mr Blair - it is also an opportunity for Europe. We are doubtful about the single currency in part because we are concerned that the policies of the Central Bank would be out of the reach of democratically elected governments. Mr Clark repeatedly asserted vesterday that it was essential that the Government continue being involved in the negotiations to protect and advance Britain's interests. But it is likely to be up to his Labour shadow to take the discussions forward.

Still, Labour would have very little time to engage in the negotiations if it were elected in May. That is why the leadership should start preparing voters now for the choices ahead. For too long, Mr Blair has followed in the Prime Minister's slipstream, while accusing him of being led by Tory sceptics. Mr Cook's statement is an important first step in being honest with the people, but we need to know more shifted, because the single currency is about what Labour intends. It has a

chance to move the EU a little way towards the European Confederacy which we advocate, in which we dump the semi-mystical goal of "ever-closer union", and in which a single currency could be subjected to democratic controls so that the peoples of Europe feel that they still have a say in their destiny. We want to hear about that, loud and clear, from Labour's top table.

This time Willetts gets it right

Jaws dropped. MPs muttered "dis-graceful". They weren't referring to David Willetts's behaviour, but to the Committee on Standards and Privileges which condemned him and triggered his resignation from the Government. Isn't this bizarre? The man was caught redhanded trying to manipulate the Commons investigation into the "cash-forquestions" affair, and pretended to the committee that he was doing nothing of the sort. Of course he was right to resign

But in a government stuffed full of ministers such as Messrs Lyell and Waldegrave, who have hung on in spite of far more questionable behaviour. Mr Willetts's resignation is remarkable indeed. Let us applaud his decision to go with the same vigour with which we condemned his original misdemeanour.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Painting's not the only art, Sir Denis

Sir: There was much to be thankful ar when Sir Denis Mahon's enerous bequest was announced ("A £25m art gift to the nation ... with strings attached", 3 December). Not only will it transform the representation of Italian Baroque painting in our public collections, it will also embarrass the Government due to his stipulation that paintings must be withdrawn if museums are underfunded or sell works from their permanent collections.

But now that more details have emerged, the bequest gives cause for concern. Sir Denis's terms seem unacceptable - or at least, they ought not be acceptable to the National Art Collections Fund, which will own the paintings and ensure that his wishes are respected.

According to this month's Art Newspaper, the NACF will have to withdraw pictures from any institution which sold any painting from its permanent collection: "Sir Denis's condition refers only to the sale of paintings." Indeed, the donor proudly announced on the Radio 4 Today programme that he was a "paintings man" - as though this were a mark of distinction.

As it stands, if the National Gallery of Scotland or the Ashmolean were to deaccession their Bernini sculptures or Poussin drawings, the NACF would not automatically be obliged to withdraw the Mahon pictures they are receiving, whereas if they deaccessioned their Poussin

paintings, it would.
As a charitable trust that acquires art in all media (recent acquisitions range from the Becket casket and a Chippendale writing desk to Canova's Three Graces and a video installation by Bill Viola) the NACF should not endorse a bequest that sanctions a hierarchy of art forms, with painting pre-

Its chairman, Sir Nicholas Goodison (a distinguished scholar of English furniture in general and barometers in particular), should ask Sir Denis to think again. It would be wrong if a bequest intended to draw attention to the philistinism of the British government should be marred by a philistinism of its own. JAMES HALL London SW11

Sky failing to back Europe

Sir: David Elstein ("Channel 5 chief dishes up the other half of the Sky debate", 3 December) claims that "Sky's entertainment channels already offer more than 40 per cent EC content". The Department of National Heritage's own figures show that only Sky One is projected to go over 40 per cent in the year 1996-7. Other channels such as Sky Soap carry nugatory EU content. Mr Elstein goes on to assert that Channel 4 "only managed 50 per cent". The actual figure from the most recent annual report was 58 per cent - and much higher during

peak bours. Mr Elstein argues that secondhand TV content is as cheap from Europe as it is from the United States. It isn't, American companies have large production stocks, often with high production values, that can be sold into European markets cheaply. By this stage, the production costs have



already been recovered in the home US market.

He argues that 51 per cent EU quotas would offer no industrial, cultural or consumer benefits. Since 1990, the deficit in the audio-visual market between the EU and the US has grown from virtually nothing to \$6.3bn. The growth in the number of TV channels has not been accompanied by a growth in European TV content. New unregulated channels such as Sky have chosen to import program from the US because they are cheaper. Had they used European programmes, it could have created thousands of jobs throughout the EU. If the UK government were to enforce EU quotas, BSkyB would have to invest over £50m in our cultural industries in the same way as Canal Plus invests £80m in French and European TV content. CAROLE TONGUE MEP (London East, Lab) Ilford, Essex

Doctor jailed for woman's choice

Sir: Well done Suzanne Moore! Her article "Speaking up for the right to abortion" (6 December) is absolutely right. I can remember as a young girl in the Thirties taking part in a demonstration against the sentencing to imprisonment of a brave doctor, Alec Bourne, who performed an abortion on a teenager who had been gang-raped by soldiers. Abortion was, of course, illegal in those days (although it was done privately, often in horrific conditions). But this doctor made it public, to try and get the law changed. How dare these pro-lifers, many

of whom are men, tell us women we have no choice in the matter? What does a man know anyway about the agonising choice a woman with an wanted pregnancy has to make? We pro-choicers should speak out before it is too late. Mrs P L COHEN London NW3

Sir. Suzanne Moore refers to an opinion poll finding that "72 per ent of both Conservative and Labour supporters said that a candidate's stance on abortion would not alter the way they voted".

Ms Moore claims this as evidence that there is no mileage in candidates making an issue of

On the contrary, it is highly significant that 28 per cent of voters are liable to change their vote on an issue which all parties try to sweep under the carpet. I suspect that this is a far higher percentage than those who might change their vote over, say, a single European CUITEDCY. ALAN PAVELIN

Chislehuast, Kent

Mixed faiths can help marriage

Sir: David Schneider may have written a fictional play about mixed-faith relationships ("Splitting image", 3 December), but the situation is a reality for numerous couples in Britain today, including nearly 50 per cent of all

Jews and 72 per cent of Catholics, while the Church of England has drawn up special guidelines for the rapidly growing number of cases its ministers are facing.

Mixed-faith marriages can have two unexpectedly positive consequences: one is for those involved to rediscover their previously dormant faith, precisely because they have to take responsibility for explaining it to their partner and passing it on to any children.

The other result is that those who discuss in advance how the religious and cultural difference will affect future life together, end up by strengthening their relationship and avoiding many domestic pitfalls into which even same-faith couples can fall. Rabbi Dr JONATHAN ROMAIN Maidenhead Synagogue Maidenhead, Berkshire

Food research used fair sample

Sir: Emily Green ("Korma karma" 5 December) refers disparagingly to the "grandly titled" Economic and Social Research Council; well, it is the major (government-funded) body which provides support for social-scientific

research in this country. She then criticises the size of the sample used in some research on food habits, comparing it with the size of a cinema preview audience. in apparent ignorance of the well-established mathematical logic of

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Fax: 0171-293 2056: e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).

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formal sampling, which means that sample of that size - if, and only d, chosen in appropriate ways – can indeed give an adequate estimate of the numbers in the whole population from which it is drawn who have the characteristics on which data is collected. JENNIFER PLATT Professor of Sociology University of Sussex

Why smoke hoods are dangerous

Sir: Mrs William Wordsworth, writing after the Channel Tunnel fire (letter, 10 December), is incorrect in her belief that masks or smoke hoods would be provided to passengers on an airliner in the event of fire. She may be confusing smoke boods with the oxygen masks provided to passengers in the event of sudden depressurisation of the aircraft at high altitude.

Following the fatal Boeing 737 fire at Manchester airport in 1985, the Air Accidents Investigation Branch recommended that the Civil Aviation Authority urgently consider requiring smoke-hoods to be carried. After extensive research, the CAA concluded that

carrying them was not justified.
There is strong evidence that far from assisting passengers to exit the aircraft, smoke hoods would hinder them. Having tried out one of the better hoods on the market. I have some sympathy with that view.

They are time-consuming to put on and, once donned, greatly reduce vision, impair hearing and cause general clumsiness - all crucial matters in an evacuation. I suspect that all very young and many elderly passengers would find them virtually impossible to use in an emergency. I know of nobody in professional aviation who has acquired his own bood to take on flights. KIERAN DALY Flight International

Suiton, Surrey

Roman verdict

Sir: I was skimming through the Latin proverbs and sayings in my dictionary of quotations when my eve was arrested by the word "Major". The quotation was from Tacitus (Hist, 1, 49): Major privato visus, dum privatus fuit, et omnium consensu capax imperii, nisi imperasset.

This was translated as: "He seemed greater than a private citizen while he was one, and by the consent of all would have been considered capable of government, if he had not governed." Nuff said! NESTA ROSŠ Prestwich, Manchester

Profit on guns

Sir. I see that the taxpayer is to pay £150m compensation for the destruction of 160,000 firearms ("fory gun-ban rebels fail to win more cash", 5 Dec). This works out at £937.50 per gun and would seem to offer a healthy profit to most gun-owners. Why?

JCDAVISON Henford

Wild salmon at risk of extinction

Sir: It is estimated that a total of around 300 tons of wild salmon reached the UK market last year. either to be sold fresh or to go for smoking. That compares to landings of farmed fish out of Scotland totalling close to 70,000

Salmon, fresh and smoked, is becoming something of a Christmas tradition, as is the annual habit of food writers to discourse on the subject. This year there has been an overwhelmins chorus from the food pages of most national newspapers that wild salmon is best. "Insist on it in your fishmonger's and restaurant."

This is a debatable point. Certainly a fresh-run salmon is a magnificent work of nature and perhaps a prize for the gourmet. Yet the poor, bruised salmon that has flailed itself to death in a net is much less of a trophy, as is the exhausted fish caught high up the river after weeks of starvation. Wild salmon that reach the market are of variable quality and of course most will have been frozen, for it is a

Yet this is not the main point. It is far more important to realise that wild salmon are desperately rare. To make a cachet of this rarity will certainly scal their terminal decline within three or four years, perhaps less.

The message to the consumer should be to stick with farmed salmon, at least for the time being. Find out as much as you can about the environmental and welfare credentials of the supplier and then go for the best. Generally the quality is very high.

In the long run the proliferation of salmon farming cannot be seen as sustainable. It is too reliant on factory fishing to produce its feeds. The long-term answer is to restore the wild salmon to the huge resource that it once was, and in this the salmon farm industry can play a key role in hatching and

releasing wild stock. This is not pie in the sky. It just needs good organisation and a moratorium on fishing. One major initiative is already under way. There are good grounds for optimism, but it is crucial that we preserve the few remaining wild salmon as the last of the seed corn. Otherwise they are lost for ever. Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd Ardkinglas, Argyll

Do as you say

Sir: The time has come for a Citizen's Charter for Politicians both local and national - where manifesto promises are linked to measurable outcomes and time scales, and failure to meet these are subject to financial penalties, to be met by the politicians themselves. Let's use this as an opportunity to disentangle "promises" from wish lists as we face the general election. BEATRICE FRAENKEL Liverpool

Come back, Celts

Sir: In view of the pressures existing for the return of native lands to the North American "Indians". Australian Aborigines and other tribes worldwide, should not the Cornish and the Welsh ("The Sons of Cornwall are on the march", 9 December) unite in seeking the return of the native lands from which their ancestors were driven, ie England? DEREK HOLMAN. Weald, Kent

The British have been led to believe only they are sceptical about Europe

Rosengarten mountain. Benperous fellow, is standing on the ground below. Nearby, Gramm trucks, which have just sped across the Alps. and through the Brenner pass, are unloading marmalade and fizzy water. "Whatever people want I can get it for them," he chuckles, boasting that he can supply every German tourist who comes to the South Tyrol with their favourite mar-malade for breakfast.

I ask whether this might be

partly due to the increased

number of trucks, carrying Ger-

man marmalade, which are get-

ting stuck alongside inreeased

numbers of tourist buses, car-

rying the Germans who will eat

Mr. Gramm. "It is because

Europe will not pay for a tun-

nel under the Brenner pass."

Mr Gramm believes the

rights of the farmers must be

protected, if local culture and

the Alpine environment is to be

helping. The problem is that

the Common Agricultural Pol-

icy has favoured Bavarian milk

producers, and the South

Tyrolean mountain farmers are

going out of business. Above Mr Gramm is a picture of a

South Tyrolean cow munching

At the Dublin summit tomor-

buttercups in happier times.

row, European heads of gov-

ernment will talk a lot about the

need to listen to the concerns of

such European "citizens" as

Mr Gramm. A draft treaty will

be presented entitled: "Adapt-

preparing it for the future."

And the leaders will try to pre-

sent the treaty as "user-friendly

on the clarity of the text. They

will uphold new proposals on

"transparency", which is Euro-

jargon for open government.
The draft treaty will also

sion-making at the most local level possible. But while making

these concessions to the "citi-

zen's" needs, the political élite.

doubts of ordinary people.

eserved. And Europe is not

marmalade. "No," laughs

We are talking about Euro-pean integration. "In principle it is a good thing," he says, somewhat hesitantly as we wander over to the apple-packing warehouse. "Anyway, the intentions are good.

Mr Gramm clearly knows all about the benefits of the single market. "You see, we have always been on a great trading route here," he says, recalling the powerful free-traders of the 18th century, who used to transport spices from Venice. and through the Brenner pass to Augsburg. Nearby, they are putting apples in packs containing special CO2 gas, which reserves the Golden Delicious for up to eight months.

And Mr Gramm knows all about integration. The South Tyrol was carved off from Austria and given to Italy at the end ing the European Union for the of the First World War. It is a benefits of its peoples and bilingual province, with a minority of Italians and a majority German-speaking population. He knows all about the need for by congratulating the drafters open borders too. Mr Gramm is about to head off to Munich (for a Tyrolean craft fair), speeding across the Austrian and German frontiers without so much as a

passport check make new proposals for enforc-With a feather in his Tyrolean hat, Mr Gramm looks Euro-jargon for effective decilike the very model of a modern European citizen who would vote "Yes" to greater union every time. Or would he? As we are talking, news comes which is designing Europe's in of trouble on the Brenner future, will nevertheless take litpass. South Tyrolean dairy the note of the real fears and farmers are blocking the road in protest over a drop in their milk exports, which they blame believe that it is only they who on a rising lira caused by fol-lowing Italy's efforts to join the In fact, shades of Eurogle currency. "There is a lot septicism can be found right of fear of the euro," says Mr across the continent. In other Gramm. "And people don't like this Euro-tax at all."

We go to Mr Gramm's office about "them and us". But to establish whether any Gramm trucks are stuck in the lions of European citizens are jam. He says the traffic on the Brenner pass is getting worse. confused and fearful about developments in Europe.

But across the Continent, people are resisting the rush towards greater integration. They worry about the erosion of local and national differences. and are angry about not being consulted by the pro-Brussels political élite. Sarah Helm reports

> An average of just 58 per cent of all European Union circiens think membership of the union is a "good thing". In Austrians is the coming of the euro. In Germany people are also fed up that their country has to pay Europe's bills. many countries the figure is far lower. In Sweden, for example, only 22 per cent of people say membership is a good thing, a far lower proportion than in Britain where the figure is about 37 per cent. Curiously, British support for EU membership suddenly went up to 43 per cent last July, in the after-

math of the "beef war". In Germany and France opinion hovers between 50 per cent. and 60 per cent; the biggest supporters of the EU are always found in Luxembourg, where 70 per cent of people like being part of the EU.

6 Grassroots grumblings can be heard on every European street and in every bar 9

Strikes and protests in France, Belgium, Italy and Greece about austerity measures, taken by their governments ahead of monetary union, have focused attention of the growing fear of the euro. Meanwhile the noises of less specific grassroots grumblings can be heard on every European street and in every European bar. The most common complaints are that European integration is moving "too fast" and that the voice of ordinary people is "not heard".

In France people tend to rail The British have been led to "We are European but we don't know what it is." says Marcel Vilroi, a shopkeeper in Bordeaux, "Brussels is too far away," is a constant refrain "Europe is for big business," is member states the debate is another regular complaint. "The utlra-liberals will break less confrontational - it is not Europe," says an Aquitaine mayor. The Danes think Europe opinion polls show that milis simply interfering in too many policy areas, while a prime concern of the Germans and the

political voice for the frustration. In Germany 60 per cent of the populace opposes the curo but both main political parties support it. Nervousness about launching Europe-wide campaigns on either the euro or the the new

EU treaty show how wary the decision-makers are of public reaction. But the need to secure wider public support for the next round of integration has to pay Europe's bills.
Signs of widespread antipathy
to European integration can been acknowledged. Horst Teltchik, who was Helmut Kohl's key adviser during the negotiation of Maastricht, concedes that public opinion was ignored during the 1992 also be measured by the increase in anti-European stories that appear in the Continental press. British newspa-pers are often accused of writing negotiations. "It was crazy to ask people to vote for a treaty that they could not understand. We were too self-confident. We Euro-myths" - such as "EŬ says fishermen to wear hairnets," which recently appeared should have explained more in the tabloids. Now Continenthan we did," he says today. But tal papers have developed an Europe is still proving hard to appetite for such stories. The sell. The European Commission has recently launched "Europe by satellite", which allows "the citizens" to tune in Finns recently accused Brussels of trying to harmonise the temperature of swimming pools, while the Swedes read a Euroto day-to-day developments in scare about cat litter regulations.
Throughout the Continent Brussels. The problem is that nobody wants to buy the dish.

there is a growing cry for greater "regional" input into European government. Alienation from

the existing European institu-

tious is bringing calls for more
"local" decision-making
through a "Europe of the
Regions", and a reaffirmation of

local cultural identity to counter

Until the early Nineties the

eans were largely enthusiastic

majority of Continental Euro-

about Europe. Ordinary people

did not understand what their

leaders got up to in Brussels. Unlike the British, however,

they were ready to accept that

good, and was intended, above

all else, to prevent further wars.

The Continentals found few rea-

sons to complain, because the political integration that was

underway did not impact unduly

on everyday life. But with imple

mentation of the single market

in the late Eighties, the first seri-ous complaints were beard.

While big business seemed to

benefit from new cross-border

trade, ordinary people began to

feel the impact of integration as

multiple regulations on every-

thing from health and safety

standards to recines for mar

malade became subject to har-

monisation. It was not, how-

ever, until 1992, when the

Maastricht treaty was signed,

that people began to question

The impenetrable text, nego-

tiated with almost no public

consultation, proved a massive turn-off. The Danish voted

"No" to Maastricht in a refer-

endum, and the French only narrowly accepted the treaty.

According to Brussels surveys, public support for membership of the EU has barely recovered

The bureacrats of Brussels

easily exaggerated, and is a

symptom of economic problems which have nothing to do with "Europe". They fail to

since Maastricht.

the value of a union at all.

egration was for the greater

Brussels harmonisation.

been set up in the information directorate of the Commission specifically to react to and counter the Euro-myths. But the myths are being spun so fast that the staff find it hard to cope. The European parliament has this year launched a "Europe is what you make it" campaign in every member state, and the socialist group -the largest in the parliament now pighs its policy ideas on the Internet. However, the evidence suggests that knowledge of the way Europe works does not necessarily lead to affection for the union. Danes always score the highest markes when it comes to understanding the process of European several process of European govern-ment. But today saly As per cent of Danes think member ship of the EU is a good thing.

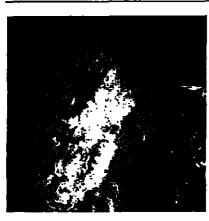
Even in Germany it is no longer taboo for political figures to attack Europe. Edmund Stoiber, the powerful president of Bavaria, increasingly attacks Brussels in his speeches. "If you criticise Europe you are condemned as a Euro-sceptic. This is unfair, he said at a recent meeting in to to utter criticism without being condemned as a Eurosceptic. Europe must be closer to the needs of the citizen."

As Europe heads for a major new round of integration and adoption of the single currency, all the signs are that Continen tal Europeans such as Mr Gramm in South Tyrol will continue to feel confused by Brussels decision-making.
Mr Gramm feels alienated by

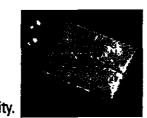
Brussels but also senses that he must increasingly answer to Europe's laws. In the applepacking factory, for example, costly new machinery has been installed to stamp EU-approved sell-by dates. And Brussels now and political leadship in mem-ber states argue that public disaffection with the union is wants hotels to start a census of all tourists, which will be costly and very time-consuming.

These things are not their business," says Mr Gramm.





Meet Santa.



Presents are his speciality.

Like Santa, we will be trying to spread an extra bit of happiness this Christmas.

Midland Bank, Forward Trust, Griffin Credit Services and Swan National have decided not to send Christmas cards to customers this year. Instead, as in 1995, we are donating the money to three worthy causes associated with the true spirit of Christmas.

Normally we spend £75,000 on cards and postage but by donating £25,000 each to Sense, Abbeyfield and Turning Point, we hope to spread a little happiness to somebody else this Christmas.

these charities



Abbey **Reld**



Compère and contrast: me and the band was deserved, but then I would say that, wouldn't I? It isn't much better

his coming Friday I have to go out briefly on the stage of the Queen Elizabeth Hall and initiate the proceedings of a jazz concert which Stan Tracey is giving to mark his 70th birthday. Do a bit of compering. Chat for a while if there is a hiatus. And already there is a part of me wishing I hadn't said I would

Introducing a jazz concert is not exactly climbing Everest, but it is still one of the most thankless tasks in the world. The people who have turned up to listen to any jazz concert are

generally knowledgeable and sensible, so when someone who is clearly not one of the musicians comes through the curtain or shuffles on stage and approaches the mike, the general feeling among the audience is: "Whoever he is, why doesn't he get off

and let the musicians on?" I have had to do this from time to time over the years and, however nice it is to be asked, it is never much fun to do. Someone has got to do it, however, because very few jazz musicians enjoy talking to an audience, and it helps if someone tries to establish a rapport. I had a conversation once with Chris Pyne, the jazz trombonist, who told me about the time he was asked to join a group called Coe Wheeler & Co.

"They didn't really need a trombonist," he said. "The line-up was fine as it was trumpet, tenor, rhythm section. So why me? Well, it gradually dawned on me that everyone in the band was very shy. Kenny Wheeler on trumpet. Shy. Tony Coe. Hardly says anything. I think the pianist was John Taylor. Not very forthcoming. Whereas I am quite happy chatting. And it suddenly dawned on me one day that the only real reason I had been asked to join the group was to make the

Even when you aren't on stage, you can be in trouble. I was once asked to write the programme notes for a Loi Coxhill concert. Loi Coxhill, if you don't know, is a soprano saxophonist who not only likes to play completely unaccompanied (I once came out of a Count Basie concert at the Odeon, Hammersmith, and found



Miles Kington

Coxhill busking, beautifully, on the pavement outside) but has a caustic attitude to any more conventional approaches. Anyway, I attended the concert for which I had written the appreciative notes and was somewhat puzzled when, before he even started playing, Lol pulled a programme out of his pocket and proceeded to read out to the audience every word I had written in a pretend Pseud's Corner kind of voice, making it plain he didn't think as much of it as

I did. I didn't think the scorn

in introducing a jazz concert at the Edinburgh Jazz Festival which featured the National Youth Jazz Orchestra and American trumpeter Red Rodney in a tribute to Woody Herman, and I can remember wandering round backstage occasionally trying to talk to the star musicians I was rubbing shoulders with, and finding it difficult because they hadn't the faintest idea who I was. The one moment I remember with great clarity was when the veteran Red Rodney found himself on stage playing against the young British trumpeter in the band, Gerard Presencer, and finding it extremely hard to make any headway against

backstage, because the so-

musicians with whom he has

mingling. I once got involved

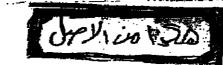
called compère is with

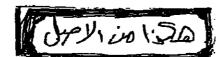
no artistic right to be

the brilliant youngster.
"My God!" exclaimed
Rodney when he came off stage. "Why isn't that young kid out getting girls in trouble, instead of showing me up like that?"

So why did I agree to go and say a few words at Stan Tracey's 70th birthday concert? To get a chance to hear Stan for free, of course. Or rather, to blackmail myself into going. When you live near Bristol, you tend not to go to London for an evening out unless you force yourself to, and although Stan Tracey's piano is still one of the joys of British music. I haven't heard him live for years – or hadn't till last Sunday, when he happened to be in Bristol playing with his Quartet at the Albert, Bristol's great jazz pub. And with him on trumpet he had the very same Gerard Presencer I heard in Edinburgh some 10 years ago, still hoyishlooking but a wonderfully mature player now.

The Bristol pub gig was being filmed for HTV, I don't think the BBC or anyone else has any plans to record the QEH concert tomorrow. Maybe London folk are slower off the mark than down here in the West Country. Anyway, if London folk knew their business they should have given him a knighthood by now.





the commentators

Self-regulation scores a victory in the House

Has the House of Commons done something right for once? There could hardly be a worse time for John Major to lose one of the ablest members of his government. But that isn't really the point. The outcome of the inquiry, the first by the newly formed, post-Nolan Commit-tee on Standards and Privileges, may prove to be at once more important and longerlasting than the mere fate of a single minister.

David Willetts will probably bounce back in the long term, not least because, unusually and promptly, he resigned yes-erday. But there's just a chance that yesterday's brutally succinct report will start to change the culture of the House of Commons. At long last. And for the better.

A unanimous recommendation of the committee is that in future it should hear evidence on oath. If that is accepted - and it should be it will underpin the authority of the Commons claim to regulate itself. It could, as some Tories were quietly pointing out yes-terday, constrain Mohamed Al Fayed if and when he gives evidence on the cash for questions allegations against Neil Hamilton. But it should also encourage MPs not to cover up for themselves and however loyally - for each other.

There is a human story here. An imaginative political intellectual is propelled, against his natural inclinations, into the introverted clubbiness of the whips' office. Never mind that a government not exactly overburdened with articulate thinkers might have found a more seful role for him. It was an appointment that as supposed to "knock him into shape", to give him a taste of low politics and, no doubt, a sense of his own limitations. Perhaps exactly because he isn't a natural whip, he acts the over-eager new boy and does his best to help the willing chairman of a quasi-judicial committee to deal with an embarrassing scandal in a way the Government would like. Or so it ota that hav Whip immediately after a conversation with the Committee chairman, Sir Geoffrey John-

Two years later the note becomes public and Willetts, now a pivotal if middle-ranking minister, denies in evidence to a Select Committee that that's what he was doing, or that it was what Sir Geoffrey wanted him to do. Sir Geoffrey, in evidence, likewise denies that he had heen seeking help from the Government. But the committee decides that Willetts' memo was a lot more accurate than either his - or, for that matter, Sir Geoffrey's - evidence to the committee. Willetts is severely censured for "dis-

sembling" to the committee. No one has complained about Sir Geoffrev's conduct to the committee. But the committee makes it clear that neither man should have had the conversation in the first place, and notes with damning politeness that Sir Geoffrey's own oral evidence was "sincere" if



Donald **Macintye**

Evidence on oath should encourage MPs not to cover up for themselves

and each other

being whips, or oiling the wheels of Select Committees to suit the Government. And cvnics will say that it will just make them more careful about getting caught. But it will make them more hesitant about trying to suborn

There is more to come. Probably after Christmas it will start

to examine the case of Andrew

Mitchell, the whip who actually

served on the committee, who

consulted the Registrar of

Members' Interests about his

assessment of the Hamilton

case, and then passed on the information to the Chief Whip

with the comment: "Not very helpful, I'm afraid."

In some ways the Mitchell case will be different - and not

just because he enjoys more

backbench popularity than Wil-

letts, who suffers from what

many Tories regard as the vice

of cleverness.

Also a whip at the time,
Mitchell was openly a member

of the committee. It's surely

indefensible for a whip to be on

a backbench committee of the

legislature. But not a Labour

whip, indeed not a single MP of any party, complained at the time he was appointed. If any-

one had objected, his appoint-

ment would probably have been

blocked. It demonstrates how

decadent the custom and prac-

tice had become, that no one

did. And that's part of what

This report won't stop whips

may now start to change.

inquiries into complaints about MPs. As it happens, this inquiry wasn't on a Nolan-type issue. This was the new Standards and Privileges Committee acting not on sleaze but on an old-fashioned issue of parliamentary privilege - interference in the independence of MPs. But because it was the first inquiry by a new committee that will deal with sleaze in the future, it was a critically important test. Dale Campbell Savours, the most experienced inquisitor on the Labour side - and a one-time believer in external regulation - certainly thinks the process worked.

The inquiry might not have found as it did formed the atmosphere by his relentless questioning of Willetts. It's very doubtful whether would have produced a unanimous report at all if it hadn't first been persuaded to hear evidence not just in public but on television sharply increasing expectations of the inquiry.

It's tempting to think that the Conservative majority, in what most people see as the closing month of its party's 17-year regime, suddenly decided to do the right thing – a sort of conversion on the political deathbed.

But it would be fairer to say that with the

threat of statutory external regulation hanging over them, the committee finally, belatedly, began to demonstrate that it was capable of putting its house in order.

This has been a messy affair. But the most important lesson from yesterday is a frankly unexpected one: having languished in the last chance saloon, self-regulation might now just



y dentist is turning Japanese. Her surgery currently features a spindly viburnum twig in a long blue-glass vase standing on a pedestal, which clients of her fashionable south London practice can contemplate at their leisure, like Shinto devotees inspecting a cherry blossom tree.

Did I say "at their leisure"? What I meant was "to distract them from the screaming agony they are simultaneously enduring". For the plant's function is, of course, therapeutic rather than aesthetic. It's not there to amuse passing borticulturalists. It's to distract you from the knowledge that you're sitting with your mouth bizarrely, and unpleasantly, filled with rubber suction tubes, metal clamps and little plastic hoovers while a brace of ladies you hardly know are leaning over you and hoeing your gums with an ultra-violet

cattle-prod. I haven't had the pleasure for a while. In fact I haven't been near a dentist for five or six years, I've grown used to the gradual organic decay, the carious grooves and crenellations, the unexpected Polo-mint-sized holes and



Chopin: dental distraction

Monument Valley erosions in the cave of one's mouth over the years. But when a whole landslip of grey molar suddenly appeared before me the other night, in an otherwise perfectly acceptable murgh dhansuk, I decided it was time to travel down the Road of Pain once more.

I couldn't believe how much had changed. It used to be so brutally simple. Once you sat for 20 minutes in a hushed ante-chamber that smelt of Mr Sheen and old copies of Horse & Hound.

until your name was called by a sad-cycd matron - the sort who in bygone times would have been found robbing corpses in a Dickens novel who led you to a room recking of cloves and zinc oxide, where a genial and bearded Australian would attack you with a drill and make you drink some effervescent pink antiseptic.

while you stared unhappily at Now look what you get: the waiting room is full of piped Dvorak, there's an educational jigsaw on the table and some copies of the new-style Punch on the chair in a burst of post-modernist ("You must be in a 'dentist's waiting room', right?") irony. In the surgery, the dentist is a smiling, auntie-like figure with a banerie de cuisine that includes plaque guns and light-sensitive fillinghardeners. Sit up on the reclining chair and you're given an array of carved wooden African trucks and diggers to look at. Recline on

the reclining chair, and you're staring at an aerial view of Dulwich, the idea being that, in trying to identify your back garden, you will fail to notice that a particularly jangly dental nerve is about to be cauterised with pitch and tar. Should a filling be required, they plonk a Sony Walkman over your ears and turn it up until the cacophany of excavation is briefly drowned by Vladimir Ashkenazy playing Chopin waltzes fortissimo. Should a major

filling be required, they give you a pair of perspex goggles to shield you from bits of you sit, a torture victim on sensory overload, your mouth, eyes, ears and nose simultaneously assailed. It's surprising they don't give you something to do with your hands to complete the set. Modelling clay? Worry beads?
"There's a lot of new

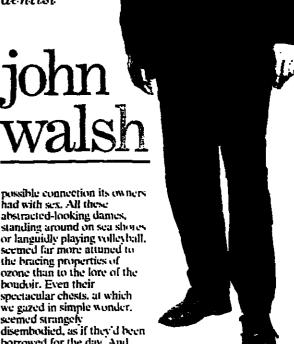
thinking about patient relaxation," I was told by a personable Scot at the British Dental Association. "It's to reassure people who are still scared of dentists. Some surgeries even give you virtual reality headsets while your teeth are being worked on. but since they cost £1,500 each, it's early days." Intrigued, I did some research of my own, and found a chap

in Mill Hill who offers patients giant spectacles on which they can watch videos mostly soothing stuff, such as great golfing moments or (a favourite, apparently) Delia Smith explaining how to make boeuf on daube. But, he told me, patients had the option of bringing their own favourite movies along. Jolly good. Where did I put my copy of Maradion Man? Can you still rent Driller Killer?

nd Nicholas A Soames told the House of Commons that ministers had not deliberately myzelled Parliament over the use of dangerous pesticides in the Gulf War," said the lady newscaster, reading the 8pm bulletin on Greater London Radio on Tuesday night. Myzelled? Oh I see, misled. Poor thing, she had momentarily suffered that curious form of wordblindness that affects everyone from time to time, when a familiar arrangement of letters refuses to divulge the word it purports to represent. Personally, I've always had a problem with "swee-thart" and "nooshoond", which is how I read the words sweetheart and newshound. And a quick straw poll reveals that one or two (non-dyslexic) colleagues have always had trouble with "drorts" and "kway", which is how they always read the words draughts and quay. So it is hardly fair for me to criticise another's momentary lapse. I am just as guilty. I have no alceby.

Efficiency magazine faces closure left a curious pang somewhere in the memory banks. I haven't seen the thing for all of 30 years, but what a curious production it was. The title, for one thing, seemed a little off-target for a nudie magazine. (Efficiency? Efficiency at what?) And the ampersand gave it an unmistakeable whiff of the trade mag (as in Transport & General Workers' Union Magazine). But the content was far odder. It was in these pages that a whole generation of nervous Catholic youths at my severely Jesuit school first glimpsed naked female flesh and couldn't work out what

An earful of Chopin, an eyeful of soothing video. and a mouthful of cattle-prod. Ah, the pleasures of a visit to the dentist



abstracted-looking dames, standing around on sea shores or languidly playing volleyball. seemed far more attuned to the bracing properties of ozone than to the lore of the boudoir. Even their spectacular chests, at which we gazed in simple wonder. seemed strangely disembodied, as if they'd been borrowed for the day. And, given the prevailing rules about the airbrushing of pubic hair, well, it turned us all into little Ruskins. (Armpits 100).

All this reminiscence started getting to me. I simply had to find a copy of the final issue before it went, er, belly-up. But there was no sign of it in Brad, the index of the nation's magazines. H&E's proprietor. Peenhill Ltd. was raided by the porn squad some months ago and their London phone number is "not recognised". So I finally went to the newsagent at Canary Wharf and asked for it.

"Health magazine, is it?" No. 1 said, in a serious. journalist-atwork voice naturism magazine. Nudism, that sort of thing. Quite famous, once. Going out of business, I'm doing a story on it, you see. For a paper. Very much a matter of

research. Oh yes. The newsagent regarded me steadily, "We're not allowed to sell magazines like that " he soid. "But the nearest thing I can offer you is probably l'ideo



shop again. ("Over there,

Gerry. That's the poor sod who was looking for 'calth &

Efficiency the other day...")



Students must pay for their privileges

onight the governors of the London School of Economics have the chance to start weaning the univer-sities off Welfare State junkiedom - and to confront the parents of children likely to enter higher education in the new century, myself among them, with a hard truth. The market rate for excellence is higher than that which we are currently

paying.

The LSE's governors are being asked to approve a contingency plan for charging British undergraduates a "top-up" fee. probably of the order of £1.000 a year, and payable, at the earliest, by the class of autumn 1998.

If the LSE acts, even if it only asserts the principle that students have to pay in order to sustain top-flight institutions, at least half-a-dozen others will move in step. This would present whoever gets elected next year with a fait accompli. Things would be messy for a while as graduate recruiters, students, their parents and bankers sorted themselves out. But faced by the universities of Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester, and London's University College, Imperial and King's all intent on charging extra, the government of the day would quickly move to establish an orderly plan. There are several well-crafted student Joan schemes around.

The expansion of higher education in recent years has been paid for by the Government on the basis of reducing the amount of public money per student. The system has proved a lot more elastic than anyone might have guessed, but the issue for the top colleges has now become escape from subsidised mediocrity.

If the LSE and its kind are to enter the new century as autonomous, free-standing institutions, they will have to charge fees (and build an apparatus of scholarships

and bursaries to go with them). This is not just about money. By saying yes to fees, the LSE would restate the importance of academic autonomy - from financial freedom comes the freedom to think. The school's founders, Sidney and Beatrice Webb, may in later life have been

The London School of Economics may tonight agree in principle to start charging fees. And why not, asks David Walker, if British universities are to halt falling standards

enamoured of the Soviet Union but they never intended the LSE to be an organ of the British State.

Nor was it intended to become a kind of up-market finishing school for Americans and other foreigners. Nothing wrong with them, of course, paying full fees at £8,500 a throw; and yet the LSE cannot admit the British students it wants because, it says, they don't bring in enough to keep the institution running.

Not even the Government pretends that higher education's sums add up. To sustain quality - repairing buildings, stocking libraries and giving academics the time to think - simply costs too much. More money for higher education, let alone its expansion, is not a priority compared with nursery programmes and qualitative improvements in secondary schools. Nor

The LSE cannot be saved by further squeezing the likes of the Universities of Luton and Sunderland, Bath College of Higher Education and the former polytechnics. These may have been ensnared in a high-cost regime, and their destinies may lie in their evolution as explicitly lower-cost local or regional colleges; but there is no denying that the higher education system as a whole needs more money if its strengths are to be preserved and extra numbers of students accommodated.

Two weeks ago, the Association of University Teachers took to the streets to agitate for more pay. It was a paltry action, which went largely unnoticed. Dons' salvation from penury lies in their own hands. To pay professors properly requires universities to charge. Thanks to them, graduates earn consistently more than non-graduates, and could afford to repay fees after graduation.

A new balance has to be struck between personal and public contributions to the cost of gaining a higher education credential. But what about the candle-lit vigil that the National Union of Students has promised outside tonight's meeting, and its fears about LSE's proposal skewing access to the offspring of the better off? Writing on this page six months ago, one of the LSE's governors, the ostensibly New Labour MP Margaret Hodge, came over all Old Labour to bemoan what she called "elitism". This is a red herring: in full-costfees America, access is less socially-biased than in the United Kingdom.

The official mantra is: let's wait for Sir Ron Dearing, the businessman who is chairing an official committee on the future of higher education, due to report in the summer. But the day after Sir Ron's committee concludes, the financial facts of academic life will be exactly as they are now. The LSE ought to lead by example. There is only one way forward for an institution keen to protect its reputation, keen to attract world-class scholars (and paying salaries at world-class levels). The way forward is fees.

I always knew sport was bad for your character

ood character, discipline and commitment were what the Victorians thought sports gave you. Permanent chilblains, inferiority complexes and bad behavious are what they in fact achieve.

A paper in today's British Journal of Sports Medicine dis-proves the commonly held belief that doing sport prevents teenagers from turning into juvenile delinquents. Rather, it seems, the reverse

is true. Boys who do a lot of sport at the age of 15 are almost twice as likely to be delinquent by the age of 18 than those who don't, and girls are even more likely to go off the rails. The researchers claim that it

is more true of individual than of team sports. I disagree, as anyone would who has stood on a freezing cold netball court in a skimpy gym skirt, biting back tears because you and the class farty have been picked last again. Reader, giving up sport as soon as humanly possible is the only reason I now consider myself to be a useful member of society. Had I not, I would no doubt be spending my time setting fire to buildings or extorting lunch money from small children.

Sport is responsible for all the nasty, mean, delinquent facets of the average schoolgirl's character. It first imbued me with an unjustified prejudice against long-limbed girls with blond manes who effortlessly made the tennis, hockey and athletics teams as well as being voted form captain on the strength of these achievements.

It taught me to dissimulate faking another sprained ankle

and having to retire to the

showers early. It taught me to lie (my period came round approximately every 10 days). to cheat (Round the field five you can get away with going round twice), and to value sloth above all other deadly sins.

I think the happiest day of my sports career was when a particularly unsympathetic teacher sent us losers out to practise archery in the cold. Some fellow incompetent mancute a perfect shot - through the staffroom window above. (Sadly there were no fatal injuries, but I still nominated her for form captain.)

Giving up sport in the sixth form freed me from all this. I felt I could even speak civilly to games teachers when they no longer had the power to make me jump pointlessly over a metal rail. And I could occupy my leisure time in useful pur-suits such as helping old people, reading, and cating chocolate. instead of subjecting myself to ritual humiliation in the name of bonding, character-building and stiff upper lips.

The researchers who produced the report note that in the mid-19th century sport became a form of social control in public schools and "was considered a substitute for poaching, vandalism, bullying and drunkenness, which had previously been the main activities during boys' leisure time". Look at the public schoolboys who run our country today. Don't you feel that poaching must have been a morally uplifting pursuit in comparison?

Glenda Cooper

Send a baby box to Bosnia this winter

- materials not many jours
think of giving someone. But
for an impoverished mother
in Bosnia trying to keep her
child safe from injection, the
basic essentials inside one of
our baby boxes would mean
the world.
Children's Aid Direct will deliver
your box directly into the hands
of mothers in Bosnia -
many of whom will
be living in
war-damaged
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Disinfectant, nannies, washing

conditions this winter, Please seno a baby box to Bosnia this winter - and help a mother keep her baby safe.

With love from a friend

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mother, please send it with your donation and we will put it in your body box. Please send to: Children's Aid Direct

DUSINESS & CITY BUSINESS & CUPY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Leap in cost of calls to mobiles provokes fury

Business Correspondent

The Consumers Association vesterday reacted furiously to news that the cost of making a call from conventional phones to Orange and One2One mobile phones would more than

double soon after the new year. The unexpected blow to consumers is due to Orange and One2One sharply increasing the charges they levy for transmitting calls from BT's land lines across the airwaves to mobile phone users.

Orange, which was formed through a joint venture between British Aerospace and Hutchison Whampoa, and One2One, which is owned by Mercury, are increasing the charges to BT to close the price gap with more expensive rivals Vodafone and Cellnet.

The price hike, which will take effect in February, will see the cost of making a one-minute daytime call from a BT phone to an Orange or One2One handset on weekdays leap from 16.71p to possibly as much as 30p. The price of an evening call could go up from 9.85p to 20p.
Weekend calls, though, would probably stay at the same price.

up just after people bought their phones over Christmas. It's an industry which has grown fast

Both Orange and One2One are currently believed to be making a loss on incoming calls from the BT network, but feel that the competitive charges were one way of enticing customers away from rivals.

The increase will bring the two network's price structure for incoming calls much closer into line with Cellnet and Vodafone. Calls made from BT to these two operators have come down recently after pressure from the industry watchdog, Oftel, but still cost 37.5p a minute at peak times and 25p during weekday evenings.

The Consumers Association, which has been severely critical of some of the marketing prac-tices adopted by the industry, slammed the price increases. Philip Culium, the Consumer Association's policy manager, said the price differential between the rival operators should have been reduced through big cuts in Cellnet and Vodafone charges, and not with increas-es in Orange and One2One

charges.
"We would obviously be very concerned if prices were going

on the back of fairly dubious selling techniques."

Many consumers are already unaware that it costs much more to make a call to a mobile phone from the BT network than it does to make an ordinary local or long-distance call. This is because the mobile compar charges BT to connect the call over its airwaves. The bill for this service is then passed on by BT to its own customers, plus the cost of the local call connection and additional profit.

BT declined to comment on the figures, though it is believed that this internal charge that the two networks make to the company for weekday calls is to rise dramatically from 7.3p a minute to more than 15p a minute. The charge for evening and nighttime calls made during the week would rise from around 5p a minute to as much as 12p.

Discussions are still going on between BT and Orange and One2One, though one of the two operators is already thought to have formally agreed the new

price regime.

Asked about the increases last night a spokesman for BT explained: "We can confirm that we have been approached by the two PCN operators, Or-

Closing the gap: Hans Snook, managing director of Orange, is competing with the company's more expensive rivals

ange and One2One, who are both requesting higher payments for calls our customers make to their networks. Any increase would obviously result in higher retail prices for our cus-tomers, which we would regret."

Ronson, whose conviction for

theft, conspiracy and false ac-

counting was upheld by the Court of Appeal in London a

However, Orange insisted even after any price rise it would still be more competitive for incoming calls: "It remains the case that it is substantially cheaper to call an Orange or One2One phone than it is to call

a Cellnet or Vodafone cus-

Despite its objections, BT is not believed to have made a complaint about the increase to Oftel. Industry observers cynically pointed out that the move

The group was bailed out in a controversial £142m takeover

by a US investor group led by

Steven Green, the man behind

Samsonite suitcases, HNV Ac-

quisition, the acquisition vehi-

vented junk bonds, was criticised for its decision to

keep on Mr Ronson as chief ex-

ecutive with a pay deal worth

£5m over five years.

by Orange and One2One would

make the Cellnet network, in which BT has a 60 per cent stake, look more attractive. Oftel is also likely to attract controversy because it is thought to have agreed to the price rises.

Following the failure, Heron

sold off most of its trading sub-

property, but this is the first big

deal to emerge. Mr Ronson said

vesterday the new property ven-

Heron's objective of building

one of Europe's leading prop-

mixed office and retail in the

Strand and Tottenham Court

Road in London and Paseo de

Three of the schemes are

erty groups.

400,000 callers besiege Halifax

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

Halifax Building Society has had 400,000 callers to its helpline in the last few days, many of them querying details of the share allocations they are to receive in next year's flotation.

The flood of inquiries, which at times led to long queues of calls at the switchboard, is in response to a mailing of 11 million letters to members giving individual details of bonus entitlements and checking account records.

A Halifax spokeswoman nied reports that the calls were from furious customers who have been told wrongly they are not eligible for share bonuses averaging £1,000 a head.

"Whether they are furious is another matter. We have had a lot of basic inquiries seeking re-assurances or more information. or volunteering further information," she added.

Halifax was aware that there might be some discrepancies in the account details mailed to customers and "we want to be sure our understanding is the same as their's". For example, some callers at

had several accounts opened in different years, and the details of the address on one of the accounts - such as a house name - might differ.

The computer would read this as belonging to a separate member and the mailing was to allow such discrepancies 12 be eliminated. "With more than 11 million

going out, to have 400,000 telephone calls is not a huge proportion," said Halifax. One common complaint anpears to be that the information sidiaries to concentrate on

in Halifax documents on how

much must be retained in an ac-

count to qualify for the bonus shares is not clear. tures marked a step forward in "I was on the phone to the Halifax for 20 minutes trying to get this sorted out," an angry caller told The Independent.

Meanwhile, Halifax said it was appointing Gren Folwell, former head of the building society and estate agency subsidiary, as deputy chief _ executive. James Crosby is to be financial services and insurance director, Mike Ellis is to head banking and savings and

Shares slide as markets get jittery

in London and David Usborne in New York

A flurry of rumours sweeping up and down Wall Street sent share orices tumbling on both sides of the Atlantic yesterday. The drama confirmed that investors' nerves have been stretched to breaking point by the US stock market's record-breaking climb.

"I think some professional money managers are scared out of their minds right now," said Michael Metz, chief strategist at Wall Street investment firm Oppenheimer & Co.

Richard Kersley, at BZW in London, said: The degree of nervousness around is reflected in how sharply the market fell today. The last few days have been very volatile."

In a dizzying roller-coaster, the Dow Jones index tumbled 90 points in the first 15 minutes of trading yesterday. By midmorning it had recovered slightly but was later 116 points down at 6.357.15

Treasury bonds fell more than a point, taking the longterm interest rate well above the psychologically important 6.5

The New York Stock Exchange's limits on automatic trading were triggered for the fourth time in five days. Last Friday saw a steep fall after Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve chairman, criticised the market's "irrational exuberance".

In London the FTSE 100 index ended more than 53 points lower at 3,982.5. Shares in Loudon have tended to react more negatively than Wall Street to recent upsets. One of the several apparently

unfounded rumours that triggered the fall when the US market opened was a report that Abby Joseph Cohen, co-

chairman of the investment committee at Goldman Sachs, had turned negative on the market. She has been one of the more notable optimists, arguing that better inflation and growth prospects warranted further increases in share prices.

A separate tremour was caused by a report in the Wall Street Journal that another Goldman Sachs executive. Robert Hormats, was predicting that purchases of shares by Japanese investment institutions would dry up. Foreign purchases have been propping up the US Treasury bond market in recent months, and the Japanese have been particularly heavy buyers due to their government's two-year campaign to reduce the value of the yen.

That report sent bond prices sharply lower and prompted a fall in the dollar against the yen. It ended one ven lower in European trading at ¥112.9, and continued to slide in New York. Mark Brown, a strategist at brokers Hoare Govett, said:

When you see markets react in such an extreme way to small pieces of information, they are very vulnerable." News of a surge in energy prices, giving a higher-than-expected increase in prices at

the factory gate last month, contributed to the turmoil. That the "core" measure, excluding energy and food, barely increased did little to soothe traders. "This was a relatively favourable report," commented

Michael Niemera of the New York branch of the Bank of Tokyo. Mr Niemera is among the majority of New York analysts who remain confident that the Fed will resist the temptation to raise US interest rates in the near future in spite of Mr Greenspan's concerns about a bubble in the markets. Market Report, page 24

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STOCK MARKETS

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FTSE SmallCap 2137.42

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Ronson makes £100m property comeback

Magnus Grimend

Gerald Ronson, who spent six months in jail as a result of his involvement in the Guinness scandal, set the seal on his corporate rehabilitation yesterday with the announcement of a £100m property programme by his Heron International group. The company is to sink the

money into four city centre projects in London, Madrid and Barcelona over the next two years or so. Finance for the developments will be provided by Deutsche Pfandbrief und Hypothekenbank, United Bank of Kuwait and Banco Santander. Scottish Amicable, the The news represents a re- End of London.

year ago. He, along with Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chairman, Jack Lyans, a fi-Anthony Parnes, were all found guilty of involvement in an illegal share support scheme which paid out guarantees and "success fees" in return for help in boosting Guinness's tions.

Shaftesbury, the property company has agreed . Shaftesbury's portfolio, inclining 122 shops to buy the Carnaby Estate of properties in Lon-and restaurants, is in the Carnatown, Covent don for £90m. The estate comprises 91 free-hold buildings, one leasehold building and a Shaftesbury is part finding the de fund manager, is also involved. site in and around Carnaby Street in

markable come-back for Mr share price in the £2. The sakeover battle for Dis Mr Ronson's fall from grace was compounded in 1992 by the collapse under debts of £1.45c of Heron International which

he had built into Britain's sec- cle backed by Rupert Murdoch ond-largest private company, and family trusts of Michael on the back of astute property. Milken, the Wall Street fi-deals and businesses ranging nancier who more on less indeals and businesses ranging from Suzuki car and motorcycle distribution to one of the UK's largest chains of independently-owned petrol sta-

issue pitched at 137p per share.

Gracia in Barcelona. The fourth scheme, in Calle Raimundo Fernandex Villaverde in Madrid, is residential. The Strand development was acquired from taining a stake.

Britain 'lagging in investment'

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Britain's investment performance has been weaker than that of its main competitors and means the average British employee is working with less capital equipment than the average Taiwanese, according to a new

The Government's claim that British industry compares well with other industrial economies. made in its competitiveness White Paper in June, is strongly challenged in a joint report from the Machine Tool Technologies Association and Oxford Economic Forecasting. They present figures showing that the share of investment in GDP is lower in the UK than elsewhere, and that spending on research and development is

The report also shows that the accumulation of a dismal investment performance over the years means the amount of capital per worker in the UK the plant and equipment each person has to work with - is less than haif the German level, lower than in Taiwan and not much better than in Korea. It concludes that the British

Kozev Market Rates

Germany 3.25

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Principle States (4 Special Falls



problem is therefore not just a hind," it says. The White Paper's comparison of the share of. matter of a low investment share keeping trend growth low, the usual diagnosis. It is business investment in GDP in the UK and other countries is also that investment has not criticised as misleading. These figures show Britain on a par been high enough to raise the with Germany and France and level of capital per worker to the ahead of the US. international norm. "Our living However, the new report standards continue to lag be-

	UŞ.	tepen	German	/ France	Italy	UK :
Gross fixed capital formation	18.1	29.5	20.4		20.5	17.0
Gross fixed capital formation exc. residential construction	14.0	23.9	414.5	14.8	14:7:	, iX
Gross fixed capital formation, machinery & equipment	8:0	51.4	25	8.7	114.	7.8
Source: OECD/OEF		100		:7.	7.4	

points out that contracting out by the UK government has boosted that particular figure. used to make the comparison flatter the UK at the expense of the other countries.

Comparing a broader measure of investment shares, such as total public and private in-vestment in machinery and equipment, shows the UK lagging behind all its main cop-metitors. Malcolm Taylor, president

of the MTTA, presented its conclusions to William Waldegrave, chief secretary to the Treasury, yesterday. Mr Taylor said: "Investment, especially investment in technology, is vital to our future prosperity. After the discussion, Mr Waldegrave said: "In setting the right climate of low inflation. and steady growth, the Government's economic policies are encouraging business to expand and invest with confi-

Mr Taylor said the association had been concerned for some time about the UK's poor performance compared with other nations, and especially about the absence of any action to encourage innovation.

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CURRENCIES

ICS backs founder threatened with ban

Magnus Grimond

Peter Hall, chairman of Industrial Control Services, yesterday won the backing of his company against official moves to disqualify him as a director. Mr Hall was a non-executive

director of Team Lotus, builders of the Formula 1 cars of the same name, until the company crashed just over two years ago. Last September, the Department of Trade and Industry issued proceedings against Mr Hall and five other former Lotus directors under section six of the Disqualification of Company Directors Act 1986.

The others are Peter Timothy Collins, James Anthony Mc-Dougall, Peter Godfrey Wright and Alan George Curtis. If the civil proceedings succeed, they could face disqualification periods of between two and 15 years. But a statement yesterday from Industrial Control, an electronic safety products com-pany founded by Mr Hall in

1966, said that, after taking legal advice, he believed he had a strong defence to the action and would be defending the case vigorously. "The board of ICS is appraised of the situation and is fully supportive of Peter Hall", the company added. Mr Hall was unavailable for

comment yesterday, but Deirdre Walker of his solicitors Norton Rose said Nigel Davis, a QC, bad advised that he had a very strong case. No date for a trial had been set, but they were keen to get on with it as quickly as possible, she added. TLL Continuation was in-

corporated in November 1989 and went into administration in September 1994. It has no connection with Team Lotus Holdings, subsequently established by David Hunt, brother of racing driver James Hunt, to continue the marque.

The directors of TLL Continuation are thought to have blamed lack of sponsorship for the demise of the company.

Costain chief set to collect £360,000 payoff

Patrick Tooher

Alan Lovell, chief executive of Costain, is in line for a £360,000 pay-off when he quits the trouand construction group, it emerged last night.
The pay-off, which excludes

any pension entitlements, is bound to fuel the corporate governance debate about rewarding directors for failure. Since Mr Lovell joined as finance director in 1993 Costain has run up losses totalling £323m and seen the value of its shares collapse from over 400p to just 46p, the price at which they have been suspended since last month pending another clarification of

utive after announcing the sale for £52m of its US coal and bled international engineering news came as Costain issued yet another profits warning. Mr Lovell said he had agreed

to stay on until a successor has been appointed. He is entitled to the compensation package under the terms of a two-year rolling contract. Last year he was paid an annual salary of £180,000.

Mr Lovell angered share-

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was "appropriate" for Mr Lovell to resign as chief exec-London property interests. The

holders in the summer when he warned that Costain would have to go into receivership unless they accepted a £73m resthe company's financial position.
On Thesday Costain said it with a 40 per cent stake. cue refinancing that left Intria.

'Like the scheme for victims of pensions mis-selling, it promises to be horrendously complicated to administer, since no two clients are likely to have bought or sold at the same moment

A painful experience is in store for DMG

the final stages of locking into place the compensation scheme for Deutsche Morgan Grenfell's unit trusts customers, and a deeply painful experience it will be for the company too. Quite how painful is to be announced next week. Imro's ambitious young chief executive, Philip Thorpe, is going to make it as painful as he reasonably can.

Like the scheme for victims of pensions mis-selling, it promises to be horrendously complicated to administer, since no two clients are likely to bave bought or sold at the same moment. The real argument, however, is over the benchmark to be used for measuring the way investors were disad-

vantaged by Peter Young's antics.

What would his European funds have been worth at any given moment if he had not gone off the rails? Would the value have mirrored the best Morgan Grenfell fund, the best fund in the entire European sector, or an average sector performance?

Some pretty robust words are thought to have been exchanged during negotiations between Imro and DMG, though it will, of course, all be presented as an amicable agreement between the two. With the very real threat hanging over its head of loss of registration as a unit trust manager, or worse, the loss of its authorisation as a fund manager of any variety, and the certainty of a film plus fine, DMG really has little option other than to toe the line, even if it argues

Once the benchmark investment fund is chosen, then the difference between its value and the actual price at which the Morgan units traded will be used to assess what indi-vidual investors lost. This tally would have to include both those who sold out early and those who held on to the bitter end. The total cost to DMG could approach

£200m. The group pumped another £180m into the funds to buy their flakier investments at Mr. Young's inflated valuations. A substantial part of that will have been lost. So Deutsche Bank could be looking at a final tally of several hundred million, or approaching half the Barings losses last year. The size of the damage is one thing. The more interesting question, perhaps (for Morgan Grentall is a longer and approach to the damage is one thing.) fell is no longer an independent company), is how Deutsche Bank's Frankfurt head-quarters is going to react to it.

So far, head office has stuck by Michael

Dobson, Morgan Grenfell's chief executive. This is a bank that carefully cultivates an air of consensus and unruffled calm. The word crisis just doesn't figure in the bank's vocabulary. But action is occasionally taken, though you would be excused for not noticing it - witness the gentle way in which Hilmar Kopper, the present chairman, is to be moved upstairs to the supervisory board just a little early, to make way for Rolf Breuer. Mr Kopper was at the helm during a series of debacles, culminating in the unit trust scandal

for a high degree of independence for the investment banking subsidiary. The embarrassing scale of the losses in London must surely diminish his influence and credibility. In the fullness of time he'll be gently eased out to quieter pastures, even if he is not dumped altogether.

It's time to invest in political rhetoric

The wonderfully named Machine Tool Technologies Association has been complaining about poor levels of investment in British industry for longer than most of us care to remember. In the old days the Asso-ciation confined its remarks to the engi-neering industry. In conjunction with Oxford Economic Forecasting, it has now come up with a more comprehensive diagnosis and a pretty unhappy one it is too. Particularly damning is the finding that the level of capital per worker (value of tools and technol ogy) is higher in Taiwan than in Britain.

As we approach the election, investment

becomes more and more of a political issue. Labour claims that a weak investment record means the economy no longer has the capacity to grow without inflation. The Government meanwhile insists that if you What this means for Mr Dobson is any- look at the numbers the right way, there is

of the last 17 years that the sustainable rate of growth is now sharply higher. Sounds familiar? Yes, we are at that stage of the economic cycle again.

In truth, both parties are right up to a point. Investment has been so feeble during this recovery that it is hard to take seriously the undiluted Clarke thetoric. To believe that British industry has been miraculously transformed into a hot bed of entrepreneurial spirit and investment success is to surrender to fiction.

But there have been some very real improvements which can fairly be attributed to Government policy. The privatisation of British Telecom and liberalisation of the telecommunications market has arguably been the most successful episode in industrial policy since the war. In the hi-tech telecoms industry Britain has stolen a march on its competitor countries. Investment has been high, and the quality of the infra-structure has pulled ahead of that of many other industrial economies.

Here, then, is an example of how liberalisation of markets has led to a quite spectacular improvement in investment and service. In other areas of the economy deregulation and privatisation seems to have met with less success. Solutions are thin on the ground and it is indeed hard to

one's guess, but it is hard to put a positive interpretation on it. Mr Dobson fought hard and successfully in Frankfurt two years ago for a high degree of independence for the country transformed by the policies been so utterly transformed by the policies is right. All it can really hope to do is proencourage higher levels of investment. It may well be that in the end the Government is right. All it can really hope to do is pro-vided a sound economic backdrop for business and hope that business takes advantage of it. Capital allowances, for which industrialists traditionally plead, tend to make only a marginal difference to levels of cap-

ital spending, usually just subsidising invest-ment that would have taken place anyway. If the British problem is a more deep-seated one, rooted in the culture of traditional manufacturing industry, the Government would do better to claim partial success for its radical deregulation agenda rather than pretending that there is no prob-

The tendency to surrender worsens

Early surrender of pension and life assurance policies seems to be as much a problem now as it ever was, judging by fig-ures issued yesterday by the Personal Invest-ment Authority. On pensions, the situation actually seems to be getting worse. This is quite an indictment, both of the industry and its regulators. The pension mis-selling and other lesser scandals seem to have done nothing to curtail the industry's penchant for selling its customers wholly inappropriate

Ministers move to scrap hi-tech product tariffs

Bloomberg Singapore

The US, Japan and the European Union took a big step yesterday towards removing tariffs on information technology products, and asked other naations to band together to open up the global industry which generates annual sales of \$600bn (£363bn).

The agreement in principle to scrap tariffs was prepared by Quad, a forum comprising the EU, US, Japan and Canada, at a meeting of ministers of the World Trade Organisation in Singapore. While the final details remain to be agreed, the Quad will try to persuade 35 countries from Asia and other regions to join an Information Technology Agreement (TIA).

Sir Leon Brittan, EU Trade

"It's not just a US-Europe deal. We're doing our damnedest to make it happen."

Computer and telecommunications companies from the members as Hong Kong, Sin-US and Asia stand to profit if tariffs are reduced. Tan Kok Hin, managing director for South-east Asia at Compaq Computer, said: "It will definitely help our business. Tariffs are very high in some places."
EU tariffs on computer

equipment are around 7 per cent, low compared to India where duties and taxes can add 40 per cent to prices.

A full ITA may not be signed until March to give countries more time to draft proposals. "The idea may be to have an agreement and then wait until March to see how many more countries can come on board," said Jean-Marie Noirfalisse, a Commissioner, said yesterday: Belgian trade negotiator.

Up to 30 of the 128 members of the World Trade Organisation are expected to sign the ITA. They including such Asian gapore, South Korea and Tai-

In 1995, Quad members Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, Sin-gapore and China accounted for information technology exports worth \$423bn. EU ministers are considering

the detailed list of technology products for the ITA. France and some other WTO members are concerned the ITO may exclude products such as fibre optics at the request of the US. Global fibre optics trade, dominated by New-York-based Corning company, is worth about \$2bn a year.

Japan wants the inclusion of audio-visual products such as CD-ROMs, something the EU

would like to exclude. Similarly, Japan is anxious to persuade its trading partners to leave out silicon components used to make semiconductors. Still, such disagreements appear unlikely to endanger the ITA. Atrade offi-cial said Japan was willing to make compromises.

Backing from the US, Japan and the EU may not be enough, however, to produce an agree-ment to eliminate all tariffs by the year 2000 - the stated goal of the ITA talks. There is opposition from some Asian and Latin American nations, in cluding India, Thailand and Malaysia, which want more time to develop home-grown industries.

"We didn't come here to discuss an ITA," said Rafidah Aziz, the Malaysian trade minister. "We'll come in [the ITA]



Doing our damnedest: Sir Leon Brittan said yesterday it was more than just a US/Europe deal

170 US jobs to go in Reuters shake-up

Mathew Horsman Media Editor

Reuters, the financial information giant, yesterday announced plans to cut 170 jobs at its US operations, in the latest stage of

a sweeping restructuring.

The move, which will affect about 5 per cent of Reuters America's 3,500 staff, is aimed at streamlining the company's global operations and ensuring that the focus remains on its core business of providing financial and other information. Reuters had 14,600 employees world-wide at 30 June.

"The action that has been taken is the result of restructuring that began in late 1995," a spokesman at Reuters in New York said. "The aim has been to streamline the company, make it more sales-driven."

The firings follow the com-pany's launch of the series 3000 terminal for financial market professionals, which Peter Jobs,

the chief executive, called the most important development in Reuters' business in recent

"The investment requires the streamlining of our organisation to press home our sales advantage and to achieve maximum market penetration in a cost-effective manner," Mr Jobs said in October.

Earlier this year, the company's UK and Irish units were merged with those of con-tinental Europe and the Middle East, in a bid to eliminate administrative duplication.

The US spokesman said further job cuts could not be ruled out but that none were planned for 1997.

In the US, the cuts will affect management, journalists and sales staff, but the company said it did not intend to close any bureaux. As well, the sales force. which has grown by 10 per cent in the past year, will only be marginally affected.

IN BRIEF

- Kingfisher is selling its stakes in Staples UK and Maxi-Papier, the office supplies chains, to its joint-venture partner, Staples in the US for £30m. The sale of its 50 per cent stake in Staples UK for £23.5m and its 40 per cent stake in Maxi-Papier for £6.5m will be effective from next May.
- Cambridge Water plans to buy back up to 10 per cent of its issued share capital by way of an off-market tender. It has "no plans" to diversify into non-water related businesses and is confident that it will have sufficient financial resources, after the proposed share buy-back, to fund its core water business.
- Caradon, the building materials group, has sold the last of its European engineering and distribution businesses for about £200m. The buyer is Vector Industries, a holding company backed by venture capital group CinVen. The deal follows the recent sale of Caradon's automotive plastics activities.
- Cookson Group said it sold the rights to its Cookson Pigments subsidiary's range of organic pigments to Hoechst Celanese for £14.5m. Cookson also said negotiations have reached an advanced stage to sell its Cookson Pigments' inorganic pigments business to Dominion Color of the US. The sales will result in a charge of £30m and a net loss of around £30m for the anticipated costs associated with the ultimate disposal of the assets of the
- The Dutch statistical office admitted it had supplied flawed data on flows of copper through Rotterdam, clearing up a puzzle over "missing" stocks which last month threw world markets into disarray. Import and export figures supplied to the World Bureau of Metal Statistics seemed to indicate over 500,000 tonnes of hidden copper was lying in Rotterdam warehouses. The news sent world copper prices tumbling. The main reason for the problem was a failure to distinguish between copper imported into the Netherlands for domestic use and copper passing through the country in transit.
- French consumer prices fell unexpectedly in November, more confirmation that inflation in France is tame and the economic recovery is hesitant. Prices fell by between 0.1 per cent and 0.2 per cent in the month, led by declines in car prices and airfares, the national statistics office Insee said in a preliminary report. From November 1995, prices rose 1.5 per cent to 1.6 per cent, down from October's 1.8 per cent. The last time annual inflation was 1.5 per cent was in July 1995, its lowest since the late 1950s.
- Economic and monetary union may encourage companies to rely less on horrowing from banks and prompt greater bond issuance, according to research by SBC Warburg. The investment bank reaches this conclusion because companies will want to take advantage of the absence of foreign exchange risk and reduction in yield. The bank expects Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria, Ireland and Finland to be part of EMU in January 1999. By July 1999, the bank also expects Italy, Spain, Portugal and Sweden to be participating.

Pension policies abandoned after two years

別 Treanor **Banking Correspondent**

More than a quarter of people who bought a personal pension directly from a company representative during 1993 had suspended payments two years later, according to new figures published yesterday by the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the industry regulator.

Barclays Life and Britannic Assurance are among the companies with the highest surrender rates, while Standard Life and Scottish Widows have some of the lowest. Long-term pension policies

are not normally expected to be cancelled early. High surrender rates may indicate the sale of inappropriate policies, often because of poor advice.

The regulator said that while the statistics showed a slight improvement on the previous year, the persistency rates - the proportion of policyholders who kept up payments – were "The main conclusion from

this survey is that too many investors have terminated their policies early," the PIA said. The regulator plans to montor the trends for all companies but will look in particular at some of the weaker performers to see what progress has been made with more re-

The survey analysed returns

It showed that persistency rates for personal pensions were worse than those for endownent or life products and that independent financial advisers (IFAs) have better persistency rates than company

The PIA first published the

The survey shows a persistwo years for personal pension plans sold in 1993 by compa-

The persistency rate over two years improved to 84 per cent when the personal pensions were sold by IFAs.

While these two year rates are high they show that there were fewer lapses in the second year of a policy than in the first

After one year the persistency rate of personal pensions sold in 1993 was 84.0 per cent. Policies sold in 1994 by company representatives had a per-

submitted by life assurance year for the policies they sold companies and friendly soci-eties on the persistency of their cent in 1993.

life assurance and pensions

representatives.

survey last year and analysed the persistency rate, after one year, of policies sold in 1993. This new survey covers policies sold in 1994, and gives a second year of data for policies sold in 1993.

tency rate of 72 per cent after ny representatives. This means that 28 per cent of investors failed to make the payment due in the 25th month.

16Mb; RAM; 2561, pipeline herst cache 14" crisp sterp 28dp NI SVGA screen (15" screen - see options) 1080Mb (16b) entenced IDE hard disk and 3.5" 1.44Mb

sistency rate of 83.8 per cent.
For IFAs, the equivalent figure was 91.9 per cent after one

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 CA Simply Business software and CD-ROM, 38.6 repotent, coins CA Stroply Business solved large 15" screen, \$468.83 inc VAT extra (\$399 + VAT)

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Deutsche boss lauds banking in City come to that," he said. Mr

> activities in London. now spending millions of pounds in London building a

the single currency is due to be introduced, said Frankfurt's reputation did not do it credit. "But I am confident it will not

Our aim is to have Germany join the premier league of fi nancial centres world-wide." on insider dealing or illiquid.

German markets were not lax

vinced," he said. Mr Breuer runs

new City headquarters. Other
foreign banks, including the Rolf Breuer, soon to become Brener, who yesterday launched Deutsche Bank's global investchairman of Deutsche Bank, Dutch ARN Amro, have also an initiative to help Germany yesterday advised all banks to based their investment banking improve its position as a finanrun at least part of their capicial centre ahead of 1999 when

Mr Breuer acknowledged that London could benefit from remaining outside the single currency if the Bundesbank insisted on the European Central Bank maintaining minimum re-

contain chief. alle of a high

> tal markets operations from London because of the talents of the work force in the City. London had an unbeatable advantage over Frankfurt as Europe's top financial centre. "London will retain its full strength as a financial centre after EMU, of that I am con-

ment banking operations, which have been operated out of London since last year when the German banking giant took the usual step of taking control of the business away from Frankfort. Deutsche Bank, which owns Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, is

35,718 bargains

Gitts Index

swirled around, ranging from forecasts that US producer prices would cause alarm and force interest rates higher to Average. talk that a leading US investment house was dumping equities to pile cash.

Other influences included suggestions a top Tokyo investment group was in financial trouble and a profit warning was on its way from IBM. To pile on the agony worries surfaced that the US markets were losing their appeal to Japanese investors.

There appeared to be not a grain of truth in the plenitude during London trading. of tittle-tattle. Even the producer prices figures were in line span has created has caught with expectations. Yet shares many strategists on the hop. Altook fright. Footsie fell away though there is still support for 71.9 points, ending 53.2 lower

American influences, real and more than £1. The surrender rumoured, tortured the stock to the rumour-mongers was a market. A variety of stories direct result of last week's attempt by Alan Greenspan, the US banking chief, to reduce the temperature of the Dow Jones

> He had little success on Friday but his comments have instilled a new uncertainty in markets around the world and in the resulting nervous climate

the bears can enjoy a clear run.

Many investors are now fearing, even looking, for a share correction, if not a crash. Mr Greenspan has, in the short term, shattered confidence; adequately illustrated by New York's poor performance The atmosphere Mr Green-

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

Wall Street alarums and excursions torture Footsie

have been eroded. The taut po-comers include Biocompatibles litical situation and the loom-International and PizzaExing election seem destined to press. Matthew Clark, which claims to be a victim of the alheighten anxiety in the new copop craze, and Chiroscience

The grandly named FTSE Actuaries UK Indices Committee picked a poor day to confirm the relegation from Footsie of such pillars of the industrial establishment as Courmeter and Pilkington. They will be such pillars of the industrial establishment as Courmeter and Pilkington. They will be such pillars of the industrial establishment as Courmeter and Pilkington. They will be such pillars of the industrial establishment as Courmeter and Pilkington. They will be such pillars of the industrial establishment as Courmeter and Pilkington. They will be such pillars of the industrial establishment as Courmeter and Pilkington. They will be such pillars of the industrial establishment as Courmeter and Pilkington. They will be such pillars of the industrial establishment as Courmeter and Pilkington. They will be such pillars of the industrial establishment as Courmeter and Pilkington. They will be such pillars of the industrial establishment as Courmeter and Pilkington. They will be such pillars of the industrial establishment as Courmeter and Pilkington. They will be such pillars of the industrial establishment as Courmeter and Pilkington. They will be such pillars of the industrial establishment as Courmeter and Pilkington. They will be such pillars of the industrial establishment as Courmeter and Pilkington. Actuaries UK Indices Comtanks and Pikington. They will be replaced by Hays, once owned by the Kuwait Invest-ment Office and something of a new issue flop when it was floated in 1989, and Mercury

117.5p. Insurance brokers were rufstock market reporter of the year

fied by the \$1.23bn US takeover bid by Aon for Alexander & Alexander. The two US groups had been confidently expected to farget a domestic group, possibly Sedgwick which fell 5p to 122.5p. Willis Corroon, another candidate, slipped 4.5p to 129.5p.

Burmah Castrol was the

are among the casualties.
"ManU" marked its probest performing blue chip, squeezed 20p higher to 1,083.5p. Other oils, reflecting the coming Iraqi flow follow-ing the oil-for-food deal fell back with British Petroleum off 18.5p to 667.5p. British Steel chipped in with a 2.5p gain to 167.75p. Some lumpy trades reawakened a suspicion the sold 600,000 shares. The deals were completed by Merrill

Partners, to cover its fee. Man-chester shares gained 6.5p to 584p and Chelsea held at 117.5p.

377p. Airtours, as upgrades followed its 46 per cent prof-its rise, improved 11.5p to

714.5p.

Cadhury Schweppes slipped
1p to 483p as its round of investment meetings continued. Many analysts have felt obliged to cut their forecasts. There is growing concern about Cadbury's US adven-

tures, particularly its Dr Pepper/Seven-up soft drinks business which is thought to be finding the going tough against the might of Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola.

The daily crop of profit warnings lowered SEP Industrial 90 to 410 and Chemrine.

trial 9p to 41p and Chemring, the lifejackets group, 45p to 290p. Newcomer SDX Business

Systems survived the gloom, closing at 172.5p from its 160p

Shares of Andrews Sykes. the air conditioners and

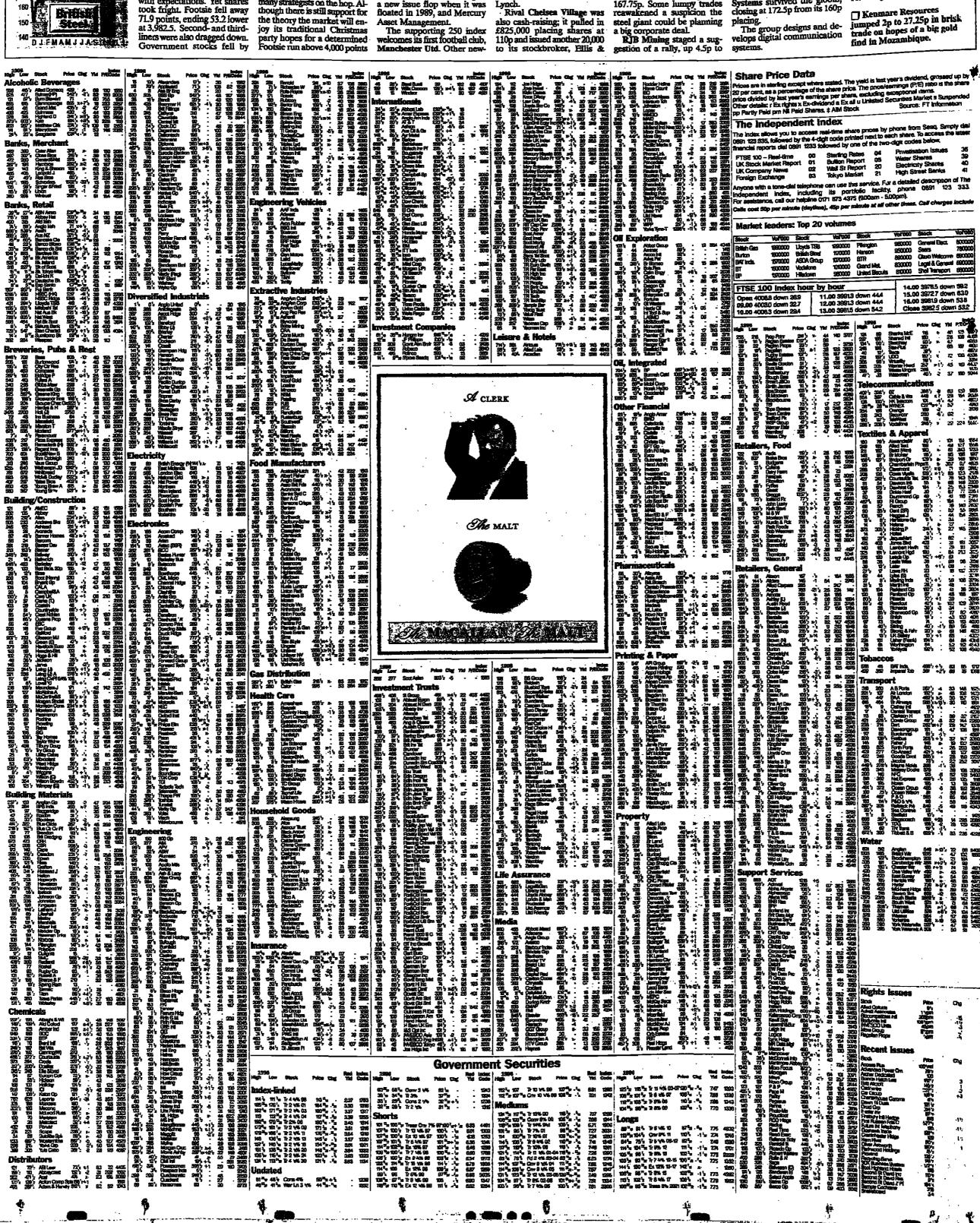
pumps group, stretched 12.5p to 505p, a new high. There is talk of an investment presen-tation. Stockbroker Teather & Greenwood is looking for profits of £7.3m this year, up from £4.7m for nine months. Next year's forecast is £8m. French millionaire Jacques Murray controls it.

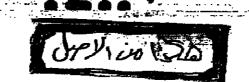
Taking Stock

Tex, the engineering and plastic group, improved 6.5p to 120p, a 12 month high. It has won a £6m contract to supply engineering plant to the Philippines. The group's order book was already improving and hopes are high profits this year will record a sharp increase, perhaps reaching £1m.

ours h







Paper-thin margins at David Smith

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

David S Smith, the corrugated paper to office supplies group, has done well in an uninspiring sector over the years. But now even it has succombed to the extraordinary turbulence the in-dustry has faced since 1994.

Yesterday's 7p fall in the shares to 299.5p came after the group warned it would be hit by the combination of the high sterling exchange rate and flat European economies, to which around half Smith's business is exposed. Profits will dive in the second half, the group warned, and the bad times could extend into next year.

The warning overshadowed interim results which showed profits edging down from £59.6m to £58.6m in the six months to 2 November. The figures were hit by falling paper ers should wait until the uncertainty prices and, more importantly, their clears before buying again. margin over waste paper, a key raw material for Smith, which has been on a downward trend since last year's peak. The squeeze exerted by stuggish

continental economies is being exacerbated by the pound's strength since August. This is giving European rivals a financial incentive to flood the Since becoming chairman two years Williams reckons imported recycled grades for corrugated board have cap-

improve until the second half of underperforming businesses. 1997. But the decision to raise the interim dividend by 6.1 per cent to 2.6p doubt the often painful and expensive reflects the group's underlying opti- turnaround process was beginning to mism. Mr Williams points to rising bear fruits and he was right to boast corrugated production and, more that for the first time the company was significantly, demand in Europe, "delivering a proper set of results".

which is up 6 per cent in the third quarter of 1996.

Paper, mainly the St Regis business. is now down to just 27 per cent of Smith's sales and the much bigger packaging division is said to be doing well. But both this business and Spicers, which dominates UK office supplies wholesaling, are still suffering from intense competition. Beyond that, any strengthening of the pound above 2.60 marks would start to hurt Smith badly, while the effect of the recent strikes in France remains unquantifiable. Brokers have eased forecasts to somewhat below £110m. putting the shares on a prospective multiple of 11. Certain directors sold

NFC clear-out

at well above 300p in the autumn. Oth-

UK. Smith chief executive Peter ago, Sir Christopher Bland has presided over a wholesale clear-out of directors at NFC, the Exel Logistics tured about 20 per cent of the home and Pickfords transport group. Out market. went all but one of the old guard; in Given European capacity increas-es coming on stream totalling around chief executive Gerry Murphy to at-4 per cent, sentiment is not going to tack a bloated cost base and weed out

Yesterday Sir Christopher was in no

The headline figures make impressive reading. In the year to September, pre-tax profits before exceptional items rose by 39 per cent to £105.7m on sales 12 per cent higher at £2.46m. Underlying turnover rose by a more pedestrian 5 per cent. The main-

tained dividend of 7.1p was covered by pre-exceptional earnings of 9.3p (6.9p). In the light of that performance it was telling that the shares, which have outperformed the market by 14 per cent this year, fell 5p to 175p. The problem appears to be that some of the busi-nesses which almost brought NFC to its knees remain in the portfolio. NFC is still lumbered with the late Eight ies legacy of a failed attempt to build a pan-European distribution system. In Sir Christopher's succinct assess ment: "We bought a chutch of lousy businesses. We can't exit bad businesses so we must turn them around."

Although losses in Europe nar-rowed to £8.5m from £10.1m on sales of £373m, the network logistics business is having a torrid time, especially in France, where the cost of creating an integrated national network continues to cause headaches.

Broker UBS trimmed its 1997 preagainst the dollar - north America is almost a third of sales - and the cost of the French lorry drivers' strike.

NFC expects to complete its £30m restructuring programme this year, but the next, and more difficult task, will be to grow the business in what it admits are "challenging market conditions." The prospective p/e rating of 16 looks generous given these

David S Smith: at a glance Share price 1994 95 96 95 96

Cider sales still fizz for Bulmer

If proof was needed that the problems round at Matthew Clark were of the Thunton cider maker's own doing, half-year figures from rival HP Bulmer pro-vided it. Despite Clark's protestations earlier in the summer that the rapid growth of alcopops had knocked the cider market for six, Bulmer's 8 per cent profit increase in the six months to October suggested otherwise.

The key difference between the two tax forecast by £3m to £122m to take companies lies in their approach to account of sterling's recent strength managing brands. Bulmer, under former marketing man John Rudgard, has put its faith, along with most of the drinks industry, in investing lieavily in brand-building and it plans a big pre-Christmas press and poster offensive.

Matthew Clark has taken the opposite tack, one it appears to have re-alised was misguided, by cutting back on advertising and attempting to boost volumes by selling its Olde Eng-lish and Blackthorn ciders at a marked

discount to its rivals. Bulmer provided clear evidence yesterday that that approach had failed. While volumes in the take-home

trade have grown by 17 per cent over the past 12 months on average, Bulmer's brands are 42 per cent ahead. In the more difficult on-trade, where nitrokeg beers are a stiff challenge, Bul-mer's 3 per cent volume decline was better than the market's 5 per cent fall. Against that backdrop, profits of £17.4m, up 8.4 per cent, were in line with expectations. Earnings per share rose 9 per cent to 21.1p and the div-

idend rose 8 per cent to 4.9p. The key issue moving into the sec-ond half, which includes the crucial Christmas period, is pricing. Bulmer has already signalled a 5 per cent increase, similar to the rise it failed to make stick last year. If it can do so, then rising volumes at home, better prices and early signs of success in its overseas expansion strategy augur well. Expected profits of about £30m this year and £33m next time put the shares, down 2.5p to 545p, on a p/e

ratio of 15 falling to 13. About right.

Greene King to close brewery in £14m revamp

Tom Stevenson

Greene King, the Bury St Edmunds-based brewer of IPA and Abbot Ale, is to shut its Biggleswade brewery at the cost of 132 jobs unless it can sell the site as a going concern. The shutdown was announced yesterday as part of restructuring of the Suffolk company's brewing operation that will result in a £14m charge being taken against full-year results.

The package of changes, which also includes three distribution depot closures, accompanied half-year results which showed a 38 per cent rise in pre-exceptional profits for the 24 weeks to October. It is part of a focus on Greene King's core ales, which now also include Wexford Irish Cream Ale, and its fast-growing retail estate, where new concepts such as Ale Cafe and Hungry Horse are being rolled out.

The closure of Biggleswade means that brewery's distribution site will also close, along with others at Norwich and Furneux Pelham. Tim Bridge, chief executive, said the job losses would be more than offset by the creation of 300 new jobs in its retail arm this year, followed by a similar number

Greene King's profits were boosted by a first time contribution from the Magic Pub company, which was included for 15 weeks in the first-half

result. The acquisition of Magic, for £200m in July, took Greene King's pub estate to more than 1,100 and means the company now makes more than half its

profits from retailing.

Mr Bridge said he was pleased with the acquisition, which made a £70m fortune for founder Michael Cannon, but represented only £700,000 a pub, low by the standards of recent pub chain deals.

Including the Magic contribution, sales jumped 41 per cent in the period from £76.1m to £107.6m. Trading profit was more than 50 per cent better at £20.4m, while profit before tax grew 21 per cent to £13.4m (£11.1m). After a 5 per cent increase in earnings per share to 18.8p, an interim dividend of 4.75p was recommended, a 12 per cent increase.

Mr Bridge said Greene King was on track to deliver synergy benefits of £3m from the acquisition of Magic Pub, thanks to greater purchasing power, the sale of Greene King ales through the enlarged chain and reductions in overheads.

Magic Pub contributed £6m of trading profit in the period, slightly less than the £7.2m generated in the full six-month period by the existing retail estate, a 12 per cent rise. Tenanted pubs increased by 4 per cent to £8m, while higher marketing costs reduced the brewing contribution to £3m (£3.2m).

Airtours heads off for £250m spree

Tom Stevenson

Airtours is planning a spending spree costing up to £250m to expand its overseas operations to a targeted 50 per cent of profits. Sources close to the holiday company believe an early deal will be the acquisition of Signature, a Canadian tour operator currently owned by UK rival First Choice.

Airtours, which has bought two tour companies in Canada since 1994, has said it believes the Canadian market is too small to sustain three major tour operators and David Crossland, chief executive, is understood to have spoken to new First Choice head Peter Long about buying Signature, which might be worth up to £50m.

Boosted by buoyant profit figures, announced yesterday for the year to September, Airtours has a strong balance sheet and is also planning a rapid roll-out of its successful fly-cruise operation in which it currently runs three liners in the Mediterтапеап and Caribbean. Air-

nival Corporation of the US, is industry. credited with creating the fly-

cruise market in America. In the 12 months to Septem ber, profits rose 46 per cent to £86.8m as sales increased by 30 per cent to £1.72bn. Earnings per share of 45.6p (32.8p) al-lowed a 14 per cent increase in full-year dividend to 16p (14p). Mr Crossland said: "In a

short period of time, Airtours has transformed itself from a purely UK-based company into an internationally diversified leisure group. These results show the group is in excellent condition."

Profits from overseas operations, which as well as Canada include a Scandinavian business represented 42 per cent of the total in the latest trading year compared with 18 per cent in 1994. In 1993 all the profits came from UK holidaymakers.

The growth of the overseas operations helped cushion Airtours from the disastrous summer of 1995 when overcapacity caused a collapse in prices for late-booked holidays and a

tours' largest shareholder. Car- sharp fall in profits across the

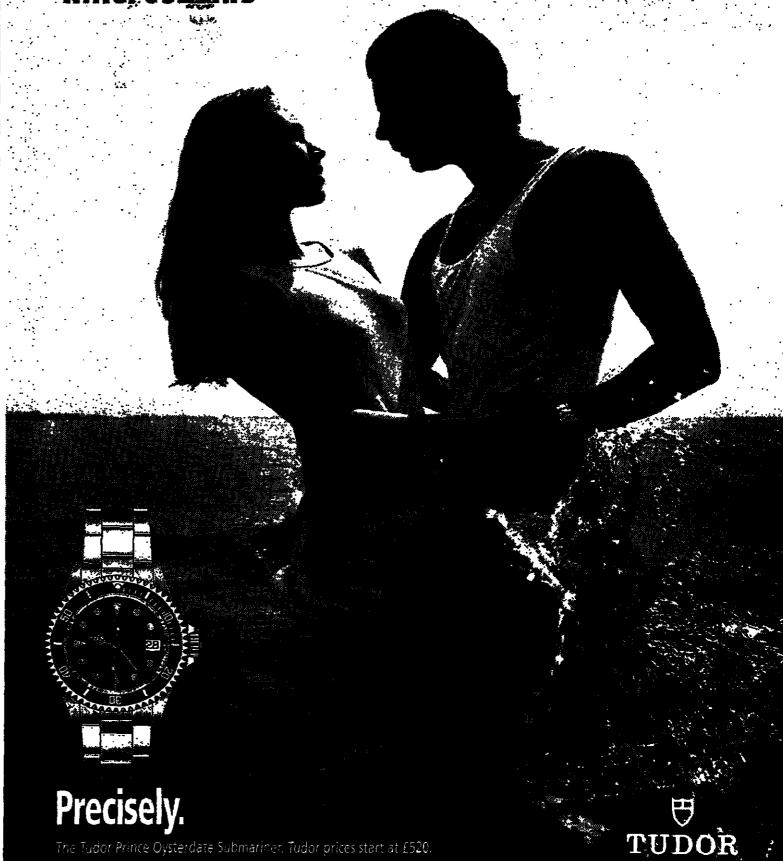
That experience led Airtours to cut capacity for this summer's holidays by 12 per cent, which was the main reason behind higher profits. Mr Crossland said the industry proved to itself that it could make more money by selling fewer holidays and he believes there has been a sea change in the hitherto highly cyclical and volatile business. Capacity for summer 1997

holidays is forecast to remain at this year's lower levels and with bookings back to the levels achieved by this point in 1994, Mr Crossland said another good year was in prospect.

Airtours' good figures came only weeks after the Department of Trade and Industry said it was launching a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation into the UK holiday industry where the close ties between tour operators and the travel agents that sell their holidays have been seen as being anti-competitive. Airtours owns Going Places, both number two in their respective fields.

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£20m bid for Chester Water

Dee Valley Water yesterday launched an agreed £20m takeover bid for Chester Water, a move that will result in a 3.5 per cent reduction in bills for customers of both companies. The terms of the offer are 403

new Dee Valley shares for every 1,000 Chester Water shares. Dee's shares held steady at 395p, valuing each Chester share at 169.26p. Chester's shares closed at 162.5p, up 8.5p compared with the closing mar-ket price of 162.5 and values Chester shares at 169.26p each excluding the interim dividend of 2.55p, which Chester sharebolders will retain.

There is an alternative offer of cash and shares for Chester's investors, who will also keep the recently announced 2.55p interim dividend. They can elect to receive 282 new Dee Valley shares together with either a cash payment or a special dividend of £508.20 for every 1,000 Chester shares.

Dec Valley has received undertakings to accept the offer from Chester shareholders representing around 65.7 per cent of the company's equity. The companies have agreed with the Office of Water Ser-

vices that from 1 April 2001, bills for customers of both Dee Valky Water and Chester Water will be reduced by 3.5 per cent over and above the combined

existing 'K' pricing factors.
Brian Jenkins, chairman of Dec Valley, said: "The enlarged Stoup will generate cost savings to benefit our customers and reholders." The 3.5 per cent discrion in price limits is over

Wickes resignation ahead of cash call

Patrick Tooher

Wickes, the DIY chain under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office and the Metropolitan Police, has paved the way for to-day's expected £50m rights issue by announcing yet another boardroom resignation.

In a brief statement, Wickes said Sanford Kaplan had re-signed as a non-executive di-rector with immediate effect. Mr Kaplan, 80, is a close associate of Henry Sweetbaum, Wickes' former chairman and chief executive who resigned in June after disclosing past profits had been overstated by £51m. Mr Kaplan is the sixth director to resign in as many It is understood institutional

investors insisted on his departure before agreeing to sub-scribe to the rescue rights issue. Sanford Sigoloff, another non-executive director linked to Mr Sweetbaum, remains on the board, though insiders say his resignation is only a matter of time. Both Mr Kaplan and

Mr Sigoloff, 65, are based in the US and have been criticised for failing to spot the accounting irregularities over five years that triggered the fraud inquiry.

An independent accountants report confirmed "serious mismanagement" and "deliberate misrepresentation" of certain rehate and contribution arrangements with Wickes' suppliers.

Wickes is expected to draw another line under the Sweetbaum era today when it announces plans to abandon its overseas operations as part of a business plan contained in the

rights issue prospectus.

Mr Sweetbaum had opened stores in South Africa, Belgium, France and Holland, as well as a conservatory busines in the US, and planned to develop the Wickes concept around the world. It is expected these operations will be sold to concentrate on Wickes' 120 stores. The document will also include the restated 1995 accounts, results for the first six months of this year and a trading statement and forecast.

	Compa	ny Rest	ılts	
	Tornover £	Pre-tax £	EPS ·	Dividend
Alreads (F)	1.72bn (1.32bn)	86.0m (59.4m)	49.230 (34.946)	160 (149)
WS AMME (B)	153m (105m)	9.55m (4.58m)	5.An (6.3p)	2.25p (1.7p)
Ange Trabber (F)	347m (308m)	21,5m (16.2m)	50 Sp (40.9p)	19.50 (17.70)
Bristol Whiter (Mage (II)	34.5m (82.5m)	7.27m; (5.49m).	.74.20 (67.46)	<u>15</u> 550 (13.759)
igh Buleaur (f)	163at (137m)	16,6m (13,5m)	20.2 m (16.44p)	4 <u>9p (4</u> 55p)
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Greate King (I)	1 <u>08mt (76.1m)</u>	13.4m (11.1m)	18.8p (17.8p)	4.750 (4.230)
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## (F)	\$9.74t (27.8m)	2.61m (1.18m) ·	11.20.5E Ted	4,750 (3,750)
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Saletting Bradio (1)	46.0m (46.3m)	1 48m (Z.05m).	1,110(1,320)	0.53p (0.63p)
		•	, Y.J.	

Why Clarke must resist the siren voices calling for a lower pound

Plain common sense has little place in economic analysis. The disagreement about the strength of the pound between the Bank of England and virtually every City commemator is a case in British exporters are still at a point. The City takes the common sense view that a strong pound is equivalent to higher interest rates. It means lower inflation and will hammer exports. This sounds extremely plausible - but it is at best only half-true.

Sterling has risen 12 per cent against the German mark since August and 17 per cent from its record lows in 1995. To City economists, almost to a man, the exchange rate appreciation reduces the need for an increase in base rates to keep inflation heading towards its target. A stronger pound makes imports cheaper in terms of sterling, which helps keep domestic inflation down. On top of that UK companies will find it harder to export because their prices will be higher in foreign currency terms, and the loss of competitiveness will tend to reduce GDP growth,

limiting inflationary pressure. The pound's rise will therefore be good for inflation and bad for exports and growth. Some analysts still hold to the rule of thumb published in an old Treasury working paper that a 4 per cent appreciation is equivalent to a 1 point rise in base rates. Some City folk espouse this view so passionately that the last regular meeting be-tween Bank officials and economists working for the gilt-edge market-makers reportedly be-

came unusually heated. Much of industry is with the City on this, starting up the usual complaints about an "overvalued" pound, though the exchange rate is some 13 per cent below its ERM level in real and nominal terms and not yet back to its 1993-94 level against the mark.

The Bank of England takes a view which finds far more favour with the academic economics community - and, per-

haps curiously, Treasury min-isters. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has resolutely insisted the pound shall go where the market takes it. Chief Secretary William Waldegrave says competitive advantage.

The Bank's analysis, in the last Inflation Report and backed by research published in the Quarterly Bulletin, sees the exchange rate as the end product of forces in the UK and overseas economies. In the jargon, it is an endogenous variable - and not an instrument or target of monetary policy. The implications of the pound's appreciation for domestic inflation depend on

why it has risen. A currency appreciation can be caused by two types of influence: monetary and real. Real effects include factors such as higher oil prices for an oil-producing country, or a supply side improvement such as higher quality of output or improved productivity, or a demand side shift such as a step increase in demand for British goods because they are more fashionable. An appreciation due to monetary factors would reflect the expectation of either rising UK interest rates or

falling overseas ones. Suppose the pound's recent rise can be pinned on real factors. What effect would this have on inflation and exports? The revaluation of imports in sterling terms would contribute to a one-off decline in prices,

which would reduce 12-mouth inflation rates for a ear. But without additional monetary tightening, leading to "second-round" effects, it would make almost no difference to inflation in the medium term. No increase in base rates, no sustained fall in inflation. As for exports.

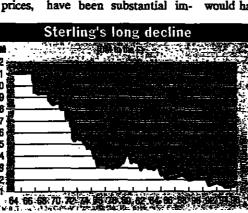


DianeCoyle

If markets have revalued sterling

because they expect rates to be raised, its rise is no substitute for an increase in the cost of borrowing

they might well grow despite the increase in the exchange rate, if the underlying cause were indeed something like higher quality or productivity. A recent, as yet unpublished, paper commissioned by the easury, by Peter Sinclair and Paul Brenton of Birmingham University, finds that there



monetary causes of a higher exchange rate, the Bank argues that if the corrency market's ex-pectations of either higher OK or lower continental interest

number of industries – espe-cially cars and electronics cour-

tesy of inward investment - so

increases in UK market share

since 1980 have taken place

without any depreciation or

reduction in foreign currency

Turning secondly to the

rates are not met, sterling will adjust swiftly back to a lower level. Only if an early increase in base rates goes hand in and with the pound's rise will the latter imply a lower path for future inflation. The Inflation Report notes that this is "a good example of a case where mixing together exchange rate and interest rates changes to assess the stance of monetary policy makes no sense". In other words, if the markets have revalued the pound be-cause they expect Ken Clarke will have to raise base rates, the pound's rise is no substitute for an increase in the cost of

It is true, in this case, that strong sterling combined with the increase in interest rates would hit exports along with the economy's overall growth. That is the point of raising interest rates - to cool an overheated pace of demand. It is perfectly reasonable to be concerne about the impact this policy would have on UK competi-

> solution is not to avoid increasing base rates if that is what is needed given the Government's fiscal policy. The Bank of England is not allowed to argue although the City could - that Mr instead have opted for a much tougher Budget to

tiveness. But the

provements in quality in a growth down to a sustainable pace at a lower level for interest rates and the pound. The Bank's job is to advise on what level of interest rates will allow the Government to meet its inflation target, given the Government's fiscal stance.

Some commentators seem to think the Government should now be seeking a competitive devaluation. They look at the post-ERM experience, one of the few episodes in sterling's history when a big depreciation has not led to higher inflation. There is no doubt this gave British exports a huge boost. However, it did take place during a severe recession, and can not really be compared to any other devaluation since

the Great Depression. Professor Sinclair says: "I would be guarded in suggesting that sterling's appreciation now does not matter, but it is true that you can not generalise about the exchange rate. You can not take it as a policy parameter."

If the exchange rate were such a powerful influence on the UK's share of export markets, it would be hard to explain why that market share has declined steadily even though the pound has lost nearly threequarters of its value against foreign currencies in 75 years. Britain's share of world trade has dropped from a sixth during the 1950s to a sixteenth by 1980. It stabilised during a decade which started with an enormous surge in sterling's exchange rate and for most of which the Government aimed to keep the pound stable rather

than falling As the new Treasury research suggests, the quality of British exports could be equally important. A Conservative government certainly has no place listening to the siren voices of commentators arguing that the Chancellor even one from a Midlands manufacturing constituency should relax over interest rates so that the pound can fall

Sir Clive Sinclair laps up Stringfellow's party

Peter Stringfellow knows how to throw a party - even if the occasion is only the launch of the Stringfellow's Internet site. Held at his West End nightclub, the veteran funster turned the evening into a lapdancing extravaganza to help promote his twice-weekly Cabaret of Angels shows and his lan-dancing club which is

scheduled to open next spring. Seventy five "angels" were on hand to help demonstrate the complex art (first one free, then a termer a go)

But most curious of all was the choice of guest of honour Britain's best-known boffin. Sir Clive Sinclair. In his introduction, the white suited Stringfellow described the inventor as "a little known ladies man'

Sir Clive did not deny it and admitted he had been tempted along "by the idea of a couple of dozen girls getting their kit off".

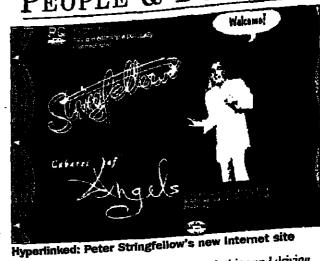
Sir Clive flicked the switch to launch the Internet site (www.stringfellow.co.uk) which will include a new branded Stringfellow's range of lingerie. Then it was lapdancing time.

As a special guest of hon-our Sir Clive was treated to a double helping. Not one but two pneumatic babes clad only in G-strings proceeded to perform a bouncing, thrusting dance of libidinous persuasion just inches from his face. Fiddling with his glass of red wine Sir Clive appeared as if he was trying not to look. Or perhaps it was just that his glasses had steamed up.

Kate Bowes is quitting as director of corporate affairs at Barclays Bank after just 18 months in the job. Ms Bowes was brought in from the Stock Exchange by chief executive Martin Taylor to help re-evaluate Barclay's brand strategy. Presumably to see if it had one. Another task was to help change the bank's civil service-style culture.

She will leave in January to spend more time doing up the ambledown house she and her husband have bought in

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Chiswick's Bedford Park in west London. Ms Bowes denies a culture clash saying she has simply reviewed herself out of a job. "It is all very amicable. I just reached the conclusion that things needed to be done differently.

Bad news for Michael and Maurice Bennett, the two brothers who run the Oasis chain of fashion shops. Oasis has agreed to pay £5,000 compensation to Tateossian, 3 jewellery designer, after the designer found items on sale in Oasis stores that were virtually identical to its own.

The main difference was the price. Tateossian's silver and semi-precious stone necklaces and bracelets retail for up to £70. The Oasis versions were priced as low as £2.99 at branches in Oxford Street, Covent Garden and Kingston-upon-Thames.

John Morris, the bearded Australian who runs the AIMlisted Gold Mines of Sardinia. is in the City this week updating the market on progress. Everything is progressing well as far as the gold is concerned though the local employees have needed a bit of extra training as far as safety regu-

lations are concerned. Apparently some of the workers have been used to work without the usual pro-

Industrial Motals

tective clothing and driving heavy trucks down narrow lanes with a bottle of vino tucked under the seat. "It's " what they've been used to be but we've told them that's not the way we do things."

W kee

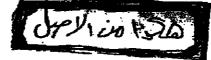
Research by Churchill Insurance has shown that Friday the 13th has proved to be purticularly unlucky. In one incident a driver's car was hit by a washing machine whilst on the motorway. "The washing machine fell off the back of a lony," the claimant said. Another driver had his car stolen from outside his home. Then found the steering wheel had been left on the lawn.

Mare Doman has been ap-pointed head of sales and marketing at AIM Global Advisers, the European operation of AIM Management Group which recently merged with Invesco. Mr Doman, who was previously at invesco, joins with a brief to beef up the London office, which only h a handful of staff. He says he knew nothing of the merger. "I knew there was something in the air but I didn't know it was

Mr Doman, 45, expects to be moving AIM from its of-fices on Bishopsgate saon as they are already too small.

Nigel Cope

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Old keeps Collier in the shade

Racing RICHARD EDMONDSON

di

Cheltenham may have passed an independent review into the state of its racing surface, but it did not survive the scrutiny of an inspection by the trainer of the Champion Hurdler yesterday. A report from the Sports Turf

Research Institute on Tuesday suggested the blend of grasses at Prestbury Park was conducive to a reasonable racing carpet and mixes were assuringly colourful. The latter re-mark could also apply to the maction of many trainers, who believe the recent drainage work at Cheltenham has sapped much-needed residual moisture from the track. "They seem to have this great twinge of conscience about throwing any water on the course," one trainer said this week. "They've got so many courses there I don't know why they don't just water the life out of one and they wouldn't have any probiems. They should stop worry-

overdrained it. There would have been little disagreement with this assessment yesterday from Jim Old, who decided, after walking the track, that Collier Bay, Alderbrook's conqueror in the Champion Hurdle in March, would not be making his seasonal debut in Saturday's Bula Hurdle.

ing about the future and worry

about today. In general, they've

It now seems likely the sixyear-old will reappear in a handup at either Haydock or Ascot month. Whatever the venue. Collier Bay has some ground to make up in a race called the charisma stakes. His contribution to last March's been recognised as much as the

prompted to discover the notion of gravity. "Words fail me [about Collier Bay's lack of publicity] and I don't understand it even though we're not worried and we like the horse doing the talking," Old said yesterday. "I don't know what the horse has to do to get some recognition. It's hard to believe he's won a Champion Hurdle and an Irish Cham-

pion Hurdle." The irony here is that Old himself is one of the turf's great drama magnets. From one-time golden boy, to the man whose string was bedevilled by the virus, on to the trainer whose premises were wrecked by fire at the season's outset, Old has done his bit do deforest the globe by means of newsprint. "It's a bit of a paradox that they've heaped all this praise on to me and they've for-gotten the horse," he said from the Portakabin that is his office following the conflagration.

Four horses perished in the blaze and six were severely injured, yet Collier Bay and Old's favourite horse, Mole Board, were spared. The grim reaper caught up with him on Monday, when the old horse succumbed to a heart attack on the gallops. Old likes a joke and would have been amused by the manner of the trooper's passing as he fell and trapped him in his dying moments as the trainer conducted exercise. "I used to ride him just about every day since he arrived here," Old said. "He was just the

most tremendous character. "Like his trainer he was a bit neurotic and highly strung, and he was very enthusiastic, more like a springer spaniel than a racehorse really. When I rode him he would sometimes stand breakthrough seems to have still and watch the rest school. He was my Land Rover."



Fleet Cadet, sporting a visor for the first time, heads for his first victory as he takes the last flight of hurdles at Leicester yesterday

Photograph: Sporting Life

Poor jumpers fall foul of Club

to be bad for long under a new set of recommendations in the wake of Richard Davis's death. The jump jockey was killed following a fall on the moderate Mr Sox and it may be that horses of that calibre will be banned

The Jockey Club is to debate a suggestion that animals that do not show any improvement after failing to complete four times in a row or those that fall three times consecutively should be barred from compe-

It is further recommended in a Jockey Club report that prospective racehorse trainers should undergo examination dependent assessment before being given a licence, and there are plans to introduce unannounced spot checks on train- and jump fences there will be ing yards to examine schooling accidents and some of them will

1.20 NEW SMALLER SIZE E.D.P. JUVENILE NOVICE

HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 3YO 2m

Bad horses will not be allowed facilities and gallops. In addi- be fatal. But we think something tion, practice hurdles and schooling races may soon become a feature of racecourses.

In the last two seasons an average of 33 horses (0.4 per cent) failed to complete on four consecutive runs and 15

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Winspit (Fakenham 2.30) NB: Triple Witching (Sandown 1.35)

(0.17 per cent) either fell, unseated or were brought down three times in a row.

Malcolm Wallace, the Jockey Club's director of regulation before being granted a licence. and a member of the investi-Riders too may need to pass in- gating group, stressed the emphasis of the inquiry is on minimising risk in the sport.

"For as long as horses go fast

302445- RUSTIC SENT (585) (D) Ms L Josef 8 10 10 504743 MATCHAN, FLAG (FR) (17) % Duris 6 10 4 231275 CRICULATION (15) (D) D McCain 10 10 2 (3794F SOUNDS GOLDEN (373) John Wilyes 6 10 0

- 9 doctored - kitnisrum weight: 10st. True handlop weight: Scunds Golden Sat 6lb. BETTING: 2-1 The Lancer, 7-2 Holy Wanderer, 5-1 Wasselt, 6-1 Dr Rocket, 7-1 The Minister, National Fing, 12-1 Chrodullan, 20-1 others

3.00 COTTESMORE MARES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m 5f 110yds

Minimum weight 10st, True handicap weight Durshen St. 12th.
BETTING: 3-1 Pair Of Jacks, 7-2 Wadsda, 9-2 Pedistlothematal, 5-1 Bartord Sovereign, 8-1 Able Player, 10-1 Lookingforarabhow, 12-1 others

345514 LEGAL ARTIST (21) Miss C Johnsey 8 11 2 ... 3-60546 SAN DIESO CHARBER (14) A Barrow 5 10 11

10 FOOP-4P BROWN ROBBER (12) Mrs R Henderson B 10 8

31P. MSILU (2019) K Balley 6 11 2. 32762/4 NESTRESS BOSIE (10) M 191 9 10 10 . 490P-46 PENNANT COTTAGE (36) Miss K Wheehouse 8 10 10 ...

can be done to minimise that risk by tackling the problems that exist," he said. "So our first priority is to find

a formula to get rid of the bad horses. We will treat each case on its merits and will use common sense before deciding to ban a horse. But we can't have horses going out and constant-

ly not getting round.
"The problem seems to be manageable. It's hard to believe people still want to race horses that regularly fail to complete, but they do and there are young jockeys who are pre-

pared to sit on anything.
"We have a duty of care to try to ensure that the horses these riders are on are well schooled. if not particularly talented. A lot of the top jockeys agree. They've been through this but they don't want the ones coming up behind them exposed to the same risk."

......A LarnachD Walsh (3) V

_T Jesis i

SANDOWN

HYPERION 2.40 Yahmi 3.10 Church Law LOO NASONE (nap) L35 Potter's Bay 3.40 Fitzwilliam

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places).

STALLS: Straight Course - Lar acte: remainder - made.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers best (or 5).

Right-hand course with still (enees and an uphill finish.

Racecourse is on \$307, four miles south of Emperon. Eaber railway station (service from London, Waterloo) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Thib \$18, Junior Club [16 Styrs) \$13, Grandstand & Paddock \$10 (students \$5): Park \$4. CAE PARE: Free, p. 52 in members.

SIS

LEADING TRANKES WITH RUNNERS: D Niebolson ~ 28 winners, from 81 runners gives a success ratio of 33.7% and a profit to a \$1 level stake of \$160.68; 3 Gifford ~ 21 winners, 127 runners, 16.5%, +59.42. O Sherwood ~ 9 winners, 43 runners, 19.9%, . 51.85; G Raiding ~ 7 winners, 61.00%, . 50.25.

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: R Duneroody ~ 20 wins, 190 rides, 24.2%, +549.10; A Magaire ~ 17 wins, 80 rides, 21.3%, . 515, 49.4 Osborne ~ 14 wins, 96 rides, 14.4%, . 518.81; P Hide ~ 10 wins, 72 rides, 13.9%, . 67.80.

BLINKERED FURST TIME: (4.10).

BLINKERED FURST TIME: (4.10).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Stately Home (2.10) has been sent 237 miles by 1º Rowen from lawerfordwest, Dyfed; Atavistic (2.40) sent 146 miles by C Pophasn from West Rog-berguigh, Somerses.

1.00 EBF "NATIONAL HUNT" NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 110yds Penaity Value £2,970

16-1 HURRICANE LAMP (21) (D) & Mrs F Welch and Mr R Barry D Micholson 5 11 10 ASSERD (Ans Pringips Cooper) R Rowe 5 11 0.

R(0005-P BLACK STATEMENT (21) GB Navior A Janus 6 11 0.

PSEGG-2 CALVAND (21) GB Naylor A Janus 5 11 0.

1- FRENDSHIP (204) (7 Bertheld and Air W Strown) N Henderson 4 11 0. 114 SUPREME CHARM (20) IP J Vogt K Bailey 4 11 0 062-0 LOCH NA KEAL (29) (S Kimberi C Montock 4 10 9

SETTIME: 9-4 Herricane Lusqu, 7-2 Resume, 9-2 Prioredrie, 9-1 Supreme Charm, 12-1 Colvan Safe Wangsone, Heat Foot, 14-1 Rossell (stand, 18-1 20-1 others 1995: Call Equatore 5 11 10 A P McCoy 9-4 (P Michola) 10 tan

SETTINGS 9-4 Hardicase Lengt, 7-2 Resume, 9-2 Prioritating, 9-3 Supresse Clearm, 12-1 Colvero, Italia Wargatos, Neat Foat, 14-1 Rossell Island, 18-1 20-1 others. 1995; Call Equations 5 11 10 A P McCoy 9-4 (P Nocloba) 10 can FORM GURDE

MASONE is thought likely to benefit, from a greater fest of stamins than he might have here, but getting 10th from Humcane Lamp and sure to be better for his Newbury run 12 days ago, he may still be good enough. Nasone is by an American size called Neary A Alose and is a tail gedding with pierry of potential, He made a winning debut in a Newbury bumper last March and, eight days later, was pached into the big Cheltenham bumper in which he did well to be 10th of 24 considering his investmence. Durposed through the first little finale, he again found things happening a bit too quickly on his hundling debut at Newbury, but stayed on to be fourth to Hot Warnor without being given a hard brine. Humchane Lamp ran twice here in bumpers last season, winning the first of them by seven lengths in a 20-strong line-up. He was due to reappear at Wetherby on 19 November but the meeting less showed off. He spent several hours in the horse-box that day and was in action at Warnock only two days later, but he was still impressive on his first run over jumps, wirming as he pleased, despite taking a strong rung from the start. There are not many opportunities in the way of three-mile or even two and a half mile nortices invides over the next three weeks and that may have a bearing on Kim Bailey's decision to run Supreme Cherm should pay to fullow. Friendeslap is one of three sons of Strong Gale in the linegrad the won a good-ground May bumper at Workerster on his sole start or last season. Jazzmam males some appeal on pedigree and is one to note.

Selection: NASONE

1.35 BOVIS LELLIOTT NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £4,814

1995: Dark Honey 10: 10: 12: R Dunwoody 6-4 (S Dow) 2 ran FORM GREDE REDEEMYOURSELF was chessed home by Nahthern Lad and Artaum in landing the Doug Barrott Handicap Hurdle (2m 6f) here last December and that is good form. The three-length second, Nathan Lad, was girtung 31b, while Artaum, pireadly a good witner this season, was conocking only 7tb. Redeempoursed was off the course from then until making a winning chasing debut at Newbury last month and he is a lightly raced seven-year-old, but he has won seven times, showing gradual improvement, and he put in a display of sound jumping at Newbury, where he may not have met anything of the calibre of Potter's Bay, but impressed with the manner of his win. Potter's Bay was sheaps going to make a chaser and his springtime hurdles wins at Wetherby and Stratford last season were a bohus. He was put imp a nowces' handicap at Wetherby for his chasing debut and was a more commoning winner from Random Harvest (these two clean) than the two-length margin suggests, while he had plenty in hand at Chettenham last month when beating is two reals, Filmsy Truth and General Pongo (winner since). Strictly speeking, good gohas been male, Rimey Truth and General Pongo (winner since). Strictly speaking, good gaing favours Potter's Bay, but there could be some assing in the ground and Redeemyourself, who gets 3th, is possibly the better horse. Triple Witching was trained by David
Nicholson when wriving the Tote Sker Tripply (Dreptsow) and subsequently a Grade two
three-miler (Newbury) three years ago. That level of form makes him well worth noting on
his beletter return, this time under the Nick Handlerson banner, but it still asking a lot of
him to best two useful, race-fit younger rivals.

Selection: REDEEMYOURSELF

2.10 BOVIS CROWNGAP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 8) £10,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £6,775

| SOFTOCA - BRADBURY STAR (246) (CD) (Lores Campbell) | Gellon 11 12 0 P Histe |
1126-20 EASTHORNE (250) (C) (Lores Campbell) | Gellon 11 12 0 M A Ringerald |
3 39-1107 STRONG MEDICINE (23) (CD) (D) 0 8 A SRI (Railey 9 11 0 M A Ringerald |
4 15-239 COMIT DESTRUPAL (FR) (25) (D) (Bernard Kea) (G Boding 6 10 1 M A Ringerald |
5 1/22412 STATELY HOME (36) (D) (BR) (P Boven) P Boven 5 10 0 M A Magnire |
5 declared |
Minimum weight: 10st. True handican weight: Soately Home 9st 13th.
BETTING: 7-4 Strong Medicine, 5-2 Easthorpe, 4-1 Bradbury Star, Stately Home, 8-1 Curti d'Estrated |

1995: Longsome Glory (USA) 7 10 0 Blythe Miller 11-4 (C Brooks) 4 ran

1995: Lonesome Giory (USA) 7 10 0 Biythe Miller 11-4 (C Brooks) 4 ren

Feeting Guide.

Strong Mindicine took in the big meetings in Cheltenham and Ainthee last season, but did not have the best of luck. He was brought down at the ninth in the Fulke Walwyn/Nim Mutt Handscap Chase at Cheltenham and oid well to keep his feet after is third-from material in the Penner Jouet Handicap Chase at Ainthee. He recovered to be thrist to Alf For Luck and Morgans Harbour, despite the distance of 3m 1f perhaps being a shade beyond his best. He fell at Newbury and last time, but had previously won at Newbury and hare before being bestern (11) wong in the handscap) in the Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenham. He should go well and may best Easthorpe for a third time this season. A string of wins last season has made Casthorpe look will-relable from a handscapping standpoint, but in the contact of this race that may not matter noo much because COMTD TESTREWAL with the contact of this race that may not out of this season's efforts to date, but with the racing weight of 10st 11b and Tony McCoy on too, Cont D'Estruval, still only so, surely can be given too many positives to come out of this season's efforts to date, but with me racing weight of 10st. 1th and Tony McCoy on top, Contil D'Estruval, still only six, surely can be given another charge. Bradbury Star holes a handrap sirty on old ability but quite what his level of form wall be this season is hard to say. The way losh Gifford's horses are running it would be no surprise if Bradbury Star managed to stamp he class, but he could quite easily need this first run over fences for more than a year. Shalady Hoose has been kept busy for quite some time and looks up against it despite the question marks against the others.

Selection: CONTI D'ESTRUVAL

2.40 BOVIS CROWNGAP WINTER NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £15,000 added 2m 6f Penalty Value £9,645 3124-11 JACK TANNER (33) (D) (Edy Hams) D Nicholson 7 11 7 _____ 22905-1 YAHOM (13) (W E Sam) J Oki 6 11 4 _____

22705-1 VANDE (J.3) (W.E. Start) J Old 6 11 4 0210-3 ATAMESTIC (21) (Mrs. 91 Erney), Mr. A. Staple, Mr. E. Morrisi C. Pophern 4 11 0.

4 273-3 BILORY (25) (BF) (Netrolas Cooper R Rove 6 11 0 _______ DO TSultiva 5 112425 RIVER ROOM (25) (CD) (Dougles Alum) / Bailey 6 11 0 ______ G Brantin 6 51-4422 SUPERMODEL (27) (Mass S Rudge) Ms N Macaday 4 10 9 ______ S Wymnt BETIMO: 4-5 Jack Tenner, 6-4 Ynanti, 6-1 Eulogy, 10-1 River Room, 33-1 Atavistic, 66-1 Super 1995: See More Business 5 11 4 A P McCoy 15-8 (P Nicholis) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE

JACK TANNIER is in another Grade Two Perm, Inlaming won one at Introders last pime. But then he was feaced by only two mast sand came home a distance clear at prohibitive odds. His effort to beat Make A Stand by a wide margin still has some value because that rival has gone on to win a valuable handleap here over a shorter thip. Jack Tanner, a fine fourth to Undende in the Sun Alliance Notices' Hurdle at Chettenham last March, jumps well and is one the better staying prospects around. He can get the better of Valsad, who must be classed as a more exposed type of horse, despite the taking manner of his reappearance success, at Newtony in a three-mile nowces' hurdle, the beat Menesonic and Herbert Lorge by 11 lengths and four and it innalins to be seen whether the ease of the win was a shade fistering or not. Containly, he was unitudy to meet some good horses in finishing runner-up on four occasions lest season and there could be a nice handleap to be won somewhere along the line. River Room looks next best on form, but Atavistic, a decembration of his Winsernion (third to Kilmington.

Selections JACK TANNER

FORM GUIDE

3.10 P & O HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 3m 5f 1.10yds Penalty Value £6,678

Admirmum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Church Law St. 128b, Frozen Drop St. 9lb. Woodlands Genthier 7st 0b. BETTHEE: 2-5 Inchosilloch, 3-1 Church Law, 5-1 Frozen Drop, 68-1 Woodlands Genbire 1995: Wilshord 12 11 10 W Marston 4-1 (Ahr.) Pitman! 9 (an)

1995: Westerd 12 11 10 W Marson 4-1 (Mr I Permani 9 an FORM GUIDE
DNCHCARLLOCH, already a three-lame wanner here, twice over fences, looks more than capable of defying 11st 7th against his three opponents, even if Church Law and Frozen Drop are not ter out of the handcap proper. Left Kerigs Casarevitich winner has looked better than ever as a jumper trist larm and he mastered a nice type, Grey Smoke, here a month ago before comfortably disposing of Go Ballisoc in a handcap at Assol. Church Law's run to dwide Christines Gorse and Stop The Walter at Wenwick last time was a decert effort and this sound jumper is one to keep in mind even if inchcadoch has his measure this time. Both should appreciate the mp.

Selections (NCHCAILLOCH)

3.40 SURREY RACING JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 3YO 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,905 SOLDRER MAK (26) (I A Low) A Hote 11 3.

= 11 decigned = BETTIME: 7-4 FiltretBines, 5-2 For Disson, 8-1 Whitspering Devin, 8-1 Spidler Male, 10-1 Bersson Vernoica Franco, 12-1 Go With The Wind, 20-1 ottom 1955; Albene Dancer 3 11 10 3 Ostome 7-4 (O Sherwood) 11 ran

rejects Tyson approach

Steward

Boxing

The leading trainer Emanuel Steward has rejected overtures from Mike Tyson's camp to work with the former undisputed world heavyweight champion and will remain with Britain's Lennox Lewis, Frank Maloney. Lewis's manager, yesterday claimed that Steward's decision proved that Lewis was "the best

heavyweight in the world".

Steward was approached by
Tyson's handlers to take over his training routines following the surprise loss of his World Boxing Association heavyweight title to Evander Holyfield. But the overlord of Detroit's famous Kronk gymnasium believes Lewis is the best heavyweight in the world and wants to remain with the best.

Maloney said: "Lewis has the best trainer in the world because Tyson went after him. And it proves to everyone Lennox is the best heavyweight in the world as Emanuel decided to stay with him.

*If Lennox and Tyson were ever to meet. Emanuel has predicted there would be only one winner, and he wants to be in the winner's corner.

"Obviously he would have been paid a lot of money, but it just goes to show how good his contract is with Lewis. He rang me to say he had been anproached to take over Tyson and other heavyweights, but told me he was going nowhere. The Lewis team is a loyal team, and this is all part of that. When you look back, it's one of the only championship teams that hasn't had a lot of changes in it."

Steward switched camps to join Lewis after training Oliver McCall to take the World Boxing Council title from Lewis at Wembley Arena in September 1994. Lewis had been previously trained by the Puerto Rican Pepe Correa.

Since then, Steward has masterminded Lewis' wins over Li onel Butler in a WBC final eliminator, Justin Fortune. Tommy Morrison and Ray Mercer in his last fight at Madison Square Garden in May.

Steward said: "I suppose it is quite flattering to be asked by Mike to work with him. A lot of people believe that is the No 1 trainer's job in boxing but I had to tell him and his people I already have the top job."

Henley to hand out the silver

Rowing

Optimism and celebration featured at the Henley Stewards meeting at the Royal Automobile Club yesterday. Mike Sweeney, the Henley chairman. announced an overall profit of £184,658 achieved without any increase in the rate of membership subscriptions.

Income was up by 7.5 per cent, mainly due to the growth in guest ticket sales and increased catering income, while expenditure was kept to inflation level at three percent.

The Stewards celebrated their success by correcting a 30-year omission, the presentation of silver goblets to the winners of the Henley coxless pairs: such presentations ceased 30 years ago. Two of the major beneficiaries yesterday were Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, habitual winners in recent years who were awarded goblets for their 1995 win, when they broke the course record.

Redgrave, with a record seven Henley wins in this event to his credit, four with Pinsent, two with Andy Holmes, his Scoul Olympics gold medal partner, and one with Simon Beresford. will receive the other silverware due to him, together with all the other winners over the 30 years. at the Royal Regatta next July.

Redgrave, who has won a to-tal of 15 Henley medals be-tween 1981 and 1995, was further honoured by being elected as the only new Steward of the Regatta this year. The position of women at Henley was secured with the news that the Queen has agreed to the naming of a new trophy, the Princess Royal Challenge Cup. which will be presented to the winners of the women's sculls.

an event introduced in 1993. The Regatta's financial success also led to a further £265,000 being transferred to the Stewards Charitable Trust which funds a full time national coach for juniors and assists with other schemes to foster rowing for youngsters.

HYPERION

FAKENHAM

12.50 Lucy Tufty 1.20 Fijon 1.55 Dont Tell The Wife 2.30 Winspit (nb) 3.00 Prize Match 3.30 Pair Of Jacks Economic France, Rubert of Editor.

If Course is south of town of B11 its, ADMISSION: Members 510; Grand-saud/Faddork & Course 57; (accompanied under-1fis free all enclosures).

CAR PARE: Members 56, remainder free.

1,3

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Counte Star (12.50), Darshan (3.30). WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS; None.
LONG DISTANCE BUNNERS: Mistess Rode (3.00) sent 304 miles by Hill from Tomes, Devon, Winspit (13.30) sent 233 miles by R Abner from Droop, Darset: Wadada (3.30) & Pharty Reef (12.50) sent D Burchell from Briety Hill, (tweet, Boyal Standard (12.50) sent 204 miles by P Rich from Langevan, (inert): Prize Match (3.00) & Java Shrine (12.50) sent 187 miles by I Tuck from Olebury-on-the-Hill, Gloncesterobire.

11:	12.50	CLASS G) £4,000 added 2m
1:		LUCY TUFTY (26) / Pearce 5 11 13
1	1	THE PARTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH
2	5 10 13	ROYAL STANDARD (9) (BF) P Ron 9 11 13
13	100-230	ELITE JUSTICE (5) 5 Grangs - 11 12
ā	440:356	ALOSAIU (28) (D) 1 Culman 9 11 1 F Titley
15	020-006	PHASEY REEF (13) D Burther \$ 10 11 A Dobbin
6	203P 33	KATBALLOU [16] h Wingout T 10 5 Ryen
17	C500CP	JAVA SHRINE (15) (D) J Tuck 5 10 4
a	260-60	RUTH'S GAMBLE (25) (CD) Mrs L Jenes S 10 0 D Leahy V
9	400 6	COSMIC STAR (7) P Writworth 6 10 0 J R Kawaragh B
10	00 At 40	JUST A BEAU (25) k45 (Jewel S 10 0Sophie liftchell (5)
١.		- 10 declared -
1		hr. 1/hrt. Trust brandsrom jugaritet: Doumir Strut 9st 11lb. Just A Beau 9st 8th.

-7 14	3001 A DC-00 (- 10 deck			
n arag	hr. 10st. True ha	NACE INCOME.	Count Star 98	111b. kust A i	9eau 9ea 8eb.
G; 2-1 ly Roci	Royal Stander: I. Alosalli, 14-1	, 7-2 Lacy Ter Java Shrine, 3	ty, 4-1 ESEs A L6-1 others	H006, 7-1 M	Manos , 10-

BETTING 1 Phanty

51 FLOW (28) (9) | Peace 10 13 V South
29 BRIGHT EQUESE (13) Mas K Whitehouse 10 12 T Jones B
DESERT MOUNTAIN M Calagram 10 12 J F Toney
PRIEST BOY | Bodey 10 12 R Hogen (5)
HAUTE CLASME R Williams 10 12 R Course
25 LE TETEU (FR) (13) 800 Jones 10 12 R Course

26 LE TETEU (FR) (13) 800 Jones 10 12 R Course

27 LE TETEU (FR) (13) 800 Jones 10 12 R Course

28 LE TETEU (FR) (13) 800 Jones 10 12 R Course

29 LE TETEU (FR) (13) 800 Jones 10 12 R Course

20 LE TETEU (FR) (13) 800 Jones 10 12 R Course

29 LE TETEU (FR) (13) 800 Jones 10 12 R Course

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20 LE TETEUR (14) 800 JONES 10 12 R COURSE

20 LE TETEUR (15) 800 JONES 10 12 R COURSEN T Edito (7 BETTINE: 11-4 Poetry, 3-1 Royal Action, 190-30 Figus, 5-1 Le Teten, 8-1 Bright Eclipse, 12-1 Forest Boy, 14-1 Magic Role, 15-1 others

1.55 STEPHENSON SMART HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS

Ŀ		D) £6,500 added 3m 110yds
1	313P-24	ROMANY CREEK (\$3) (D) J Pearce 7 12 0
2	F2462-0	DONT TELL THE WIFE (1.5) (CD) C Egenton 10:11:13 A McCarthy
3		SPEAKER WEATHERSLL (229) O Brennen 7 11 6
4		PAIS MEISTREL (12) R Chempion 11 11 6A Dobbin
5	55/330 /-	GOOD OLD CHEPS (591) John Whyer 9 10 0
6	3/54/0-P	VECTORY GATE (25) Mrs L Jewel 11 10 0
7	344235	JONER JACK (2) R Deen 11 10 0
•	•	-7 declared -
M	dinan wed	ht: 10st True handcap weights: Good Old Chips &ir 13th. Victory Gate
		Jack 8st 28c.

BETTING: 7-4 Speaker Westherlil, 5-2 Dont Tell The Wile, 3-1 Resmany Crook, 6-1 Pats Minstrel, 20-1 Good Old Chips, Victory Gate, John Jock

L. L. FIRTH MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £6,500 added 2m 110yds R XavanagaC Uovellyn B

- 6 dec BETTING: 3-1 Scamallach, Sophie May, 7-2 Jasilu, 5-1 Mistress Rusie, 7-1 Prize 3.30 FAKENHAM RACECOURSE CARAMAN SITE HAND-ICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 4f __J Prior (7) 10P ADDR (357) (5) O Bernan 5 10 10 10-0432 SHERS DELINH (6) (7) O Bernan 6 10 9 4-56223 AREF PLANER (6) (7) K Demy 9 10 8 07-5P LOCKINGFORARAMBOW (13) Bob Jones 8 10 5 5700-00 NAGORELIA (LE) (C) J Pearce 8 10 3.

10 2100-56 DURSHAN (7) (D) Jenkers 7 10 0 ... - 10 declared -

RACING RESULTS

LEICESTER 1.00:1. POTTERS GALE (A Magare) 5-4 ta: 2. Pigts Dream 14-1: 2. Meletrock Mag-gle 9-2. 10 ran 2: 11: 10 Nicholson, Em-ple Guongi, Toto: 11: 80: 11:10, £1:20. £1:80 DF: £12:80. CSF. £18:33. Tho:

£4.80.
1.30-1. SLINGSSY IR Durwoody 4-5 fax;
2. Britoparti Rose 7-1; 3. Curragh Peter
50-1.8 ran. 2, 24 IN Geselee, Upper Lambourm, Bose £1.60, £1.10, £2.50, £4.20.
DF £8.40, CSF: £7.19, Ino: £49.00. Non
Burntes Brastieren Lai. Runner, Romstown Lad 200: 1 FLEET CADET (G Supplet 4-1, 2. Beechfield Phyer 20-1, 3. Parish Walk 7-2. 8 ran, 31-3 for cond Court (5th, 4, 2. (M. Pape, Wellington), Fotor £5-40; £1-90, £2-60, £1-50. DF: £31.20, CSF.

13.90, £2.60, £1.50 bF 33.120, csr. (51.02)
2.30: 1 LORD OF THE WEST (A Magnine)
2.1 kg, 2 Philips Woody 13.2; 3, Well
2.1 kg, 2 Philips Woody 13.2; 3, Well
2.1 kg, 2 Philips Woody 13.2; 3, Well
2.1 kg, 2 Philips Woody 13.2; 0, 10.2
2.1 kg, 2 Philips Woody 13.2; 1 Lord MeMarrough 7.4 kg, 7 ran. 4.9; k Morgan,
Metan Moadran 1 Tota: £6.20; £2.80,
£1.80 DF: £13.50 CSF: £17.45, Incast
£29.29 NS. Canada

21.80 DF: (13 50 CSF: £17.45. Mccst: £19.29. NR: G.M., ND: 1. CRRCUS LINE (M. 4. Fitgerald) 13-8 to: 2. Winton; 7-1, 3. Shephords Rosd 16-1, 10 ren. 5, 7, 40 W Existed), Shenfi Hutton; Rose: £2.30, £1.10, £2.20, £4.20, DF: £14.10 CSF: £13.59. Incast: £129.36. No: £144.50 (Sor 13 50 Incast: £13.48. No: £144.50 (Sor 13 50 Incast: £13.48. No: £144.50 (Sor 13 50 Incast: £144.5

Place 8: £16 92 Place 5: £31 48.

HEXHAM

12:50: 1. HUDSON BAY TRADER (Mess PRobers) 10: 1: 2 Builindoo 5: £; 3. Baille Rose 3: 1 to, 12 ros. 1 ..., P. Beramont, 10: 2: 10: £1.30, £1.50, £1.50, £1.70. CSF £58 89. Incast: £177: 31. Inc: £43.00.

1:20: 1. MONYMOSS (Return Quest) 9: 1: 20: £1. MONYMOSS (Return Quest) 9: 2. Seeking Gold 6: 1.3. Bold Account 10: £2 ros. 7: 4 to Stokmandque (477.3); 4. (Mrs. S. Smith, Bungley) Total: £10.50; £1.60, £2.30, £2.60. DF. £24.30. CSF. £52.99. Incast: £574.24. Tro: £24.60.



1.50: 1. ROBSERA (R Gemth) 7-2; 2. Way Star 11-10 Ew. 3. Over Stated 20-1. If ram. 2. %. U Quinn, Maltoni. State 4.00; £1.00, £3.10, £11.20, DF. £5.00. CSF: £8.96. Tro: £33.90. 2.00: 1. SHOUNG EDGE (R Germay) 9-2; 2. Anabranch 6-5 & rg. 3. Colorful Ambition 6-1 & ran. %. 6. (T Eastarby, Maltoni. Roter £9.50: £2.40, £1.50. DF: £3.30. CSF. £11.00.

tion 6-1. 6 ran. ½, 6. (T Easterby, Mahon). Tota: (3-50: (2-40: £1.50. DF: £3.30. CSF: £11.00: 1. DARING PAST (R Gampy) 8-11 tar. 2. Cush Supreme 13-1; 3. Bonny, John-my 13-2. 10 ran. 6, 4. (M Harmond, Mid-deham). Tota: £1.60; £1.30, £2.00. £3.00. DF: £16.70. CSF: £12.95. Two: £11.50.

E3.00. Dr; £10.10. Gar 22. 20: 1. MENSHAAR (R Garntly) 6-1; 2. Young Kenny 2-1 ji fey; 3. Adib 20-1. 17 ron. 2-1 jr fav Clar Wad. 3. 3½. (l. Lurgo, Carutherstown). Rote: £7.40; £2.90, £0.80. Dr; £15.80, CSF; £21-15. Tro; £125.70. NR; Estableh. Jeckpot: reg won (pool of £2,676.83 carned forward to Sandown today). Quadopt: £6.40.

£6.40. 16.40. Piacepet: £31.60. Piace 8: £38.22. Piace 5: £19.90. Place 8: 538.22. Place 8: £19.90.

LINGFIELD

12.10: 1. BON SECRET (D Holland) 12-1;

2. Whildlid Beach 2-1 fax; 3. Stb. Ag 6-1.

12 ran. 5, 1. (T J Naugron), Tobe: £23.00.

£3.00. Inc. £78.30.

12.40: 1. APOLLO RED (Carely Monts)

7-1; 2. Star Talort 8-1; 3. Bergash 16-1.

13 cm. J. 1 ta Include: 2½. No. (A Moore).

(1) 2 Star house 4-1, 20, 18, (A Moore).

12 ran, 4-1 tay including, 20, 18, (A Moore).

Toto: (9-50: £2.80, £2.80, £4.30. DF: £48,70. CSF: £59.20. Troast £574.85. Tro: £71.50 (part word).

1.10: 1. ANGEL RACE WAY A Events 4-1 1.10: 1. ANGEL RICE INFA Evansi, 4-1 far; 2. Monttone 6-1: 3. Don't Drop Bombs 9-1. 14 ran, 3, 5. (P. Evansi, Tota: £4.20; £1.70, £2.70, £2.90, DF. £12.50, CSF. £27.93, Treast: £192.45, Tro: £19.60, 1.40; 1. MR MEVERMINED IS Winsorth) 6-4 tax; 2. Mogin 20-1; 3. Zelaya 25-1. 12 ran, 4, 2, (G. L. Moore), Tota: £2.40; £1.20, £5.90, £4.40, DF. £28.50, CSF. £30.96, Tro: £254.20 (part won), 2.10; 1. CSF.NK (D. HOERO), 5-1; 2. Chief Protester 13, 2: 3. Geographic Prot 5-1, 10.

2.10: 1. GES-N-K () HOSTO) 5-1: 2- CREF Predator 13-2: 3. Greenwich Fore 5-1: 10 ran, 9-2 rt fav Helto Doby (4rth), 9-2 rt fav Bornweed Crackers, 17-, 17-, 184 Johnston), Tobs: 51-50, 61-90, 61.30, 62.10, DF: 61-60, CSF: 615-62, Treast: 615-9-70, Tree 13-149 £1.60. CSP. LELOS. HUBB. FARST 129.10.

2.40: 1 WOTTASHAMBLES (D Holerad)
11-1: 2 Broughtons Formula 3-1 fav. 3.
Marthies Mystique 6-1. 12 rsn. 3½. 1
(L Montague Haff). Tota: £16.00: £2.00.
£1.70. £3.20. OF: £27.80 CSF. £44.31.
Incast: £210.12. Tho: £123.00.
3.10: £ \$821.00 W Mygham) 10-11 fav.
2 Bold Spring 7-1: 3. Castles Burring 61. 8 rsn. 2, 1½. (P Kelleway). Tota: £1.80;
£1.70. £1.70, £1.10. DF: £6.40. CSF.
ET 82.

11.70. £1.70. £1.20. £1.20. £1.21. £1.20. £1

TAUNTON

HYPERION 1.10 Yet Again 1.45 Te Arno 2.20 Nordic Valley 2.50 Rosie-B 3.20 Call Me River 3.50 Out Rank-

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in a few places). ■ Right-hand course. Run-in of 150yds.
■ Course is S of town on \$83170. Taunton station 2m, ADMISSION: Members 511; Paddicek 59; Centre of Course 55. CAB PARE: Centre of course 53; remainder free.

BLINERRED FIRST TIME: Tibbs Inn (1.47), Sexon Mead WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Barry (1.45) won

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATES MARRY (1970) and Hereford on Friday.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Promiter Plight (2.20) has been sent 256 miles by Mass L. Saridall from Cohen, North Yorkshire; Namical George (1.20) sent 188 miles by 1 Hyson from Adstance, Northamptonishre; Call Me River (1.20) sent 128 miles by 1 Hedger from East-opair, West Susser; Galway Boss (1.10) sent 124 miles by 1 Williams from Ason Roward, Oxfortshire; Boyad Saxon (3.20) sent 116 miles by 1 Borsen from Haverfordwess, Dyfed.

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2.20 STOKE ST MARY NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 3f

T Descumbe (3)

FRIGA 16-1 Adoptic

m weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Saxon Mead, Mosted Marta Set 11th. SETTING: 3-1 North: Valley, 9-2 Kno's Promise, 5-1 After The Fox, 8-1 SetTING: 3-1 North: Valley, 9-2 Kno's Promise, 5-1 After The Fox, 8-1 t, 10-1 Chris's Gien, Cracidag I 2.50 GAY SHEPPARD MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 3m 110yds 290-463 STALENCH REVAL (27) 6 Thomas 9 11 13. 13F34P CERTAIN ANGLE [14] (C) (BF) P Hobbs 7 11 10 A P Methy 53524-0 ROYAL PAPER (NC) (15) A J Wilson 9 11 4 R Greene 564751 1ULES BRANDICAN (280) M Bradstock 7 10 11 5 12*1-5 PADD'SMNY (127) (D) R Buckler 9 10 8 ... D Ricignostic 6 25*1-5 TIGGER CLAW (128) (C) A Hobbs 10 10 2 ... D Ricignoste 6 25*1-5 TIGGER CLAW (128) (C) A Hobbs 10 10 2 ... D Ricignoste 6 6 25*1-6 TIGGER CLAW (128) (C) A Hobbs 10 10 2 ... D Ricignoste B 6 45*240- (Nutrit (Cash) (139) M Pice 5 10 0 ... M Welloundon B 6 FF550-1 ROSE-6 (59) N Stationg 6 10 0 ... Mr R Thomston (5) - 8 declared -Africanum weight; 10st. True handicap weights: Water, Rosie-8 Ser 10th. BETTING: 100-30 Rosie-B, 4-1 Lugs Braunigan, 9-2 Certain Angle, 5-1 Shaunch Rival, 13-2 Paddyaway, 8-1 Khatir, 9-1 Royal Piper, 12-1 Tiger 3.20 DUNSTER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 addlets 3m 1 11335 RAMBOW CASTLE (10) P Natrolis S 12 0 ____ A P Nectory
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Limmum weight: 10st. Two handiday weightes: Call Me Roser Set Rib. Cool Char-acter. Gallic Curt Set Cib. BETTHRE: 5-2 Call Me Hower, 11-4 Solo Geet, 7-2 Rainbow Castle, 8-1 Pa-per Star, Royal Saxons, 10-1 Manusum Engineer, 12-2 others. 3.50 BICKNOLLER HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,800 added 2m 1f 450 ADONESIS (12) D Bismorth 4 10 0 _ - 5 declared -

um weight: 10st. True handrup weights: Fabulos Alleto 9st 13th, Affi

orat Rivers, Adonics Set 11s. BETTING: 4-5 Out Renising, 4-1 Fabulous Mileto, Milliandt Riviers, 5-1 Curity

FORM CUIDE
FIXWELLIAM tooks interesting on his hurdies debut. He won over 10 furlongs at Ponte FTIZWILLIAM looks interesting on his hurdles cebut, he won over 10 furings at Portie-fract in July and rounded off a light five-roce Flat campaign with a second to Dear Life over 12 furings at Nowmarket. The farther he went, the better he looked in that race and he should have no trouble leading the rith over further. Class-wise, he seems to have little to figer. For Daven has already shown he can jump, however, and he was a com-fortable witner at Whitsor 26 days ago. This grade, potentially, at least, looks longing. Go With The What's trump card is stamina, while Baranov, Whispering Daven and the Humington third, Soldier Mak, could all make an impact, too, Solections FTIZWILLIAM

Fed into the process of growing up, boxing appeared unfailingly heroic; refracted through time, noble images flourished in the mind,

exploitative, and all too often tragic, but no matter how legitimate the never be referred to as a game. case against boxing, fascination prevails over ambivalence.

Fed into the process of growing up, boxing appeared unfailingly heroic; refracted through time, noble images flourished in the mind. I would learn, it is not a metaphor for life but, as Joyce Carol Oates wrote, "a unique, closed, self-referential world, in which the individual is in one sense possessed of a will tantamount to God's, in another totally helpless."

Donald McCrae first sensed boxing's mysterious thrill as a boy in Germiston, South Africa, confused by the brutal indignities of apartheid endured by his black friends. Excited by their descriptions of Muhammad

Sure, it is more of a business than that led to the publication Dark crashing down an' I'll be back where a sport, at times callous and cruel, Trade (Mainstream £14.99), a vivid I started. study of the one sport that should

Anyone who has ever wondered what goes on in the minds of fighters, what strange instinct draws them back, time and time again, to the vicious realities of the ring, will gain from the confidences McCrae established on his travels.

rape, shortly before fighting Donovan "Razor" Ruddock for the second time, his undisputed world heavyweight championship gone, Tyson told McCrae: "That's the only thing that's certain in my life. Fighting Ruddock. Who knows what else is coming? I don't... an' sometimes, you know, I don't even care. Sometimes I get a real bad feeling in my stomach, that it's gonna come

Dark visions of doom. One of the greatest heavyweight champions, Joe Louis glad-handing pitifully from a wheelchair at Caesars Palace. Sonny Liston, broke and drugged up when found dead in Las Vegas. "Even Ali, look at Ali," Tyson said. "I love Ali but when they introduce him at my fights I look away. Sure, they cheer him, but where's his beauty now, his Two months before indicament for speed, his talent? It's gone, it's gone."

For some of us McCrae's experiences have a familiar, disturbing ring. The loss of innocence, the onset of cynicism. Only the names are dif-

Ring tragedies eat into our conscience. "When something like this happens you wonder whether boxing is worth the candle," Eddie ond of two tussles against Chris Thomas said when Johnny Owen's



body was returned to Merthyr Tydfil. Bradley Stone, James Murray; the terrible shadow that fell across Gerald McClellan's life as the result of a ferocious contest against Nigel Benn, Poor Michael Watson.

McCrae got close to Watson, listened while he prepared for the sec-

it bappen. More probably the result of cumulative punishment rather than the heavy blow an almost besten Eubank landed at the end of the 11th round, Watson slipped into a coma from which he will never fully recover.
As Hugh McIlvanney states in

McIlvanney on Boxing (Mainstream £15.99), an update of two previous collections, "Of course, sad stories are never hard to find in boxing. All too often the game's cruelties seem too much to be balanced by its exhilarations... I shall spare myself and everyone else another confession about a lifelong enthusiasm increasingly assailed by misgivings."

That McIlvanney, the most celebrated of British sportswriters, admits to shivers of unease about an

Eubank, noted his earnest expressions of faith in God – and then saw che is certainly far more important than objections based only on the principle that boxing has no place in a civilised society.

Over the the last 25 years not

much in boxing has escaped McIlvanney's attention, and nobody in that time has matched the high quality of his analytical prose or been more acutely aware of the sport's implications.

A big advantage, one I shared with McIlvanney, was to be around at the time of figures far more notable than nearly all those McCrae interrogated. What, one wonders would McCrae have made of Ali, Joe Frazier, a young George Fore-man, Larry Holmes, Marvin Hagler, Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns, Roberto Duran? And on this side of the pond, Ken Bucha-

teh, Chris and Kevin Finnegan.

Barry McGuigan and others? The publication of Frazier's autobiography (Smokin Joe; Robson Books, £16.95) revealed him to be bitterly at odds with Ali, a man unable to forgive the taunts he suffered throughout their epic saga. Attempts have since been made to

bring about a reconciliation. As usual, the sport is well served by The British Boxing Board of Con-trol Yearbook, edited and compiled by Barry J Hugman (Queen Anne Press; £14.99), and the A-Z of World Boxing by Bert Blewett (Rubson Books, £22.95) is a well produced work of reference. From Zero to Hero (Andre Deutsch. £15.99), written with Norman Giller, brings the curtain down on Frank Bruno's career.

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS: Football is now big business in publishing. Phil Shaw samples the latest prose

Mining a highly lucrative seam

Hard on the heels of Fever game, the '66 final. In fact, the Puch comes sales pitch. The unprecedented volume of books vving for our cash this Christmas reflects the fact that, in the aftermath of Nick Hornby's extraordinary success, publishers have never been more willing to take a chance on football.

So fashionable has the game become that autobiographies of two legendary figures are actually enjoying a run among the Top 10 hardbacks. Dalglish, by Kenny Dalglish with Henry Winter (Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99), reveals more of one complex character than Jack Charlton (Partridge Press, £16.99) does of another, without quite demonstrating that the "real" King Kenny is as funny a man as his friends claim.

Dalglish relives the Hillshorough disaster with all the sensitivity he showed at the time, and there is no self-pity as he recounts how the pressure eventually caused his head to "explode". It is also evident that much of his famous taciturnity comes from his dominecring mentor at Celtic, Jock Stein.

Charlton, in contrast, was often at odds with Don Revie yet there is more of Revie's cautious outlook in his approach to management than he lets on. Peter Byrne. Big Jack's "ghost" and doven of Irish football writers, might have been better employed penning an objective

On to two less "traditional" books, which view football in the way that made Hornby famous: as part of popular culture, linked to the wider world, Euro 46 inspired two enjoyable examples, Dave Hill's England's Gliny: 1966 And All That (Pan. 69.99) and David Thomson's

4-2 (Bloomsbury, £16,99). Hill, by starting his book about England's distant World Cup triumph with an account of Geoff Hurst handling a question and answer session at Butlin's in Bognor Regis, makes plain his intention to probe beyond mythology and mere football. The reader becomes as well acquainted with the style of Harold Wilson as the steel of Ray Wilson.

Thomson's book has been described, misleadingly, as the back, £9.99 paperback), is an ex-

author uses the match as a peg on which to hang the story of his own journey of self-discovery (well, it was the 60s). So the sexual revolution rubs shoulders with England's wingless wonders, while Alf Ramscy is compared with Philip Larkin. Dull, it isn't.

Pete Davies wrote a classic about the 1990 World Cup. All Played Out. His follow-up, I Lost My Heart to the Doncaster Belles (Heinemann, £14.99) is not, by definition of its subject matter, of similarly epic proportions, but it does not disappoint. Davies followed the fabled women's team through 1994-95, eliciting the players' thoughts, about the game and their "private" lives. Patronise these "ladies" at

Simon Inglis should also fig-ure in any self-respecting fan's

The sexual revolution rubs shoulders with England's

Dull, it isn't

library. An updated version of his Football Grounds of Britain (Collins Willow, £14.99) is particularly timely, what with the old architecture of football disappearing and new stadiums rising everywhere. Inglis gives new meaning to the words "detail", "research" and "expert", while his vigorous prose sets him apart from groundhopping anoraks.

There is now an indispensable companion volume. The Fontball Fan's Guide, by Janet Williams and Mark Johnson (Harper Collins, £8,99), not only gives incredibly precise directions to every ground but also details of which pubs to drink in (and which to avoid), where to get a good vegeburger and even the state of the toilets.

Meanwhile, Elegance Borne of Brutality: An Eclectic History of the Football Boot, by Ian Me-Arthur and Dave Kemp (Two Heads Publishing: £15.99 hardfirst to focus entirely on one ample of how to turn a cow's

hide into a silk purse. From the primitive Manfield-Hotspur to today's Predator, boots have been an essential yet invariably overlooked facet of the game. When the authors wrote to the Football Association, they were informed that there was nothing on footwear in Lancaster Gate's collection of 2,000 books and were they sure this would make a book? They were, it has, and

it is lovingly illustrated to boot.

Another visual treat is One: Images of a Goalkeeping Season, featuring the photographs of Robert (son of Bob) Wilson (Boxtree, £10.99). There is not a single action shot, nor, curiously, many of hands though, as his father suggests in an eloquent introduction, "the dedication and the effort and the drive oozes out of some of the studies". Most are of scarred, stubbly faces, brilliantly evoking the

solitary nature of a breed apart. Equally original, but in the field of biography, is Richard Adamson's *Bogota Bandit* (Mainstream, £14.99). The subtitle - "The Outlaw Life of Charlie Mitten: Manchester United's penalty king" - reveals more, as well as linking the book

courage the sales it deserves. Mitten was part of Old Trafford's first great side after the Second World War. He broke with the feudal set-up of English football to go and play for a millionaire football baron in Colombia. An adventure story of sorts, it is also a critique of the insularity endemic in these islands.

The cover of Dream On: A Year in the Life of a Premier League Club, by Alex Fynn and H Davidson (Simon & Schuster, £14.99), shows a wall on which names like Greaves, Jennines and Chivers are soravpainted. The shot conjures up Tottenham's past, inviting comparisons with Hunter Davies' seminal study, The Glory Game. Although it is strong on the acrimony between Terry Ven-

ables and Alan Sugar, as well as on the politics of the Premier League and the unfettered commercialism of the big clubs, the book seldom emulates its predecessor's ability to be a fly on the dressing-room wall. Once bitten, Spurs were obvi-



Images of a Goalkeeping Season

Derick Allson's Kicking in the Wind (Headline, £14.99) succeeds rather better in getting "inside" a club the way Hunter Davies did. That the club is terminally unsuccessful Rochdale rather than some Premiership ple should not deter potential purchasers. Allsop turns a year their humdrum existence

into a gripping soap opera, whose plots and personnel will engage even those who have never visited the town.

I Think I'll Manage, by psy-chologist George Sik (Headline, £15.99) promises insights into the tricks of the managerial trade. Unless you count Dave Bassett staging Christmas in

August his interviewees are stories in Return of the Little Vilactually rather short on "tricks". However, the black humour of a precarious profession shines through. What, the author asks Jim Smith, keeps you at it? "The

mortgage," he replies. Talking of the domestic life

lan, by Brian Little with Peter White (Sports Projects, £11.95) concerns the day the gas man called to find the Aston Villa supremo home alone for once. Little had to ask him to come back when his wife was in. He of managers, or the lack of it. had no idea where the meter

Brighton challenge taken on by Gritt

Steve Gritt said he was relish-ing the challenge of taking on the toughest job in football when he became the new manager of troubled Brighton and Hove Albion yesterday.

The Seagulls are 11 points adrift at the bottom of the Third Division - but that has not deterred Gritt. The former Charlton joint-manager said: "I wouldn't have taken the job on unless I was satisfied that the club has a future. In my talks I was given those assurances. I am ready for the challenge and cannot wait for my first game at home to Hull on Saturday.

Gritt's appointment ca: just hours after the Sussex club had confirmed that they will be appealing against the two-point penalty imposed by the Football Association on Monday for a pitch invasion by fans during a home game against Lincoln City in October. Brighton's chief executive, David Bellotti. insists that the peaceful protest by the fans was aimed at the directors. "We are appealing on the grounds that the players have been penalised," he said.

Bellotti also revealed that Gritt, Brighton's third manager in the last year, was selected as Jimmy Case's successor from 50 applicants. The 39-year-old. has been searching for a manager's job since parting company with Charlion 18 months ago, admitted: "It has been said that the Brighton iob is the worst in football, but I have taken it on because pri-

marily I am a football person. .. "I have been very keen to get back ever since I left Charlton. We have got 24 games to turn things round at Brighton and it is an achievable task. Success for me would be for us to finish 23rd in the league, and just make sure we get off the bottom place."

Gritt hopes to appoint an assistant this week, and has urged disgruntled supporters to back the club from now until the end of the season. He said: "My message to fans is for them to get behind the team. Together we can do it and once we've put together a few wins we will have the teams above us sweating." He also revealed that he has been promised some money for team strengthening.

Scots win free tickets

Scottish fans have been given a financial bonus for their rearranged World Cup tie with Fstonia. Those supporters who were in Tallinn on 9 October for the fixture that never was - the match which lasted three seconds - will be given free entry when the game is played in Monaco on 11 February.

However, those fans are unlikely to be celebrating ton, much. Ticket prices have been set at just £3.30 and £6.60 and the fans will have to make their own way to the south of France It is, however, a small victory for the Scottish Football Association. Its chief executive, Jim Far. ry, said: *Fifa have listened to very strong representation from the SFA and we have managed to agree free entry for those sup. porters who were in Talling and who now wish to go in Monaco for the match.

"Not only will SFA Travel Club members who wish to attend the match receive comolimentary tickets, but we've managed to maintain a moder. ate pricing structure for tickets. which will be allocated only via the travel club and the SFA, It is fair to say we exercised a strong will to ensure a correct response was obtained from our friends in Estonia and Fifa. We would like to think those strong representations were heeded by the powers that be,

Club tales that are not always received with warmth

used to lend a spurious authority to a book. More often than not. it also turns out to be code for "sanitised version". Now Tottenham have banned a book about their greatest season. Ken Ferris' The Double (Two Heads, £9.99), from being sold at White Hart Lane because it is unauthorised, i.e. no licence tee has been paid for the "right" to write about Spurs.

The publishers also claim that Sours will not even sellthem advertising space in the club magazine. Which is a

shame, because the story of the anything, the pictures are even historic 1960-61 campaign, and what became of the players, is not widely known among football supporters under 40.

Title notwithstanding, Bryon Butler's The Official Illustrated History of the FA Cup (Headline, £25) is a sumptuous celebration of 125 years of the greatest knock-out competition of all. Butler's mellifluous tones have told the story of many a giant-killing on radio. The same lyrical, romantic quality, allied to a lynx-eved attention to detail, illuminates the text. Yet, if more evocative: there is at least one from every final, including a portrait of Morton Peto Betts. match-winner for The Wanderers in 1872, which was discovered in a cricket pavilion in Kent. Football lovers and followers

of particular clubs alike (not necessarily the same thing) will delight in Butler's homage. For those looking for something more specific there is the Illustrated History of Leeds United by Andrew Mourant (Hamlyn, £17.99), an addition to a coffeetable series which includes up-

Celtic, Liverpool, Manchester United and Spurs (authorised, naturally). Hamlyn also offer Player by Player editions on Arsenal and Liverpool (£14.99), both combining Ivan Ponting's pithy pen portraits with superb

action pictures.

Tapping the same market, with a statistical bias, Breedon Books have produced lavish new large-format books on Rangers (by Bob Ferrier and Robert McElroy, £16.99) and Leeds United (by Martin Jarred and Malcolm Macdonald,

dated histories of Arsenal, £16.99) in the Complete Record series. Also from the Derbybased publishers, in collaboration with the Express & Star newspaper, comes Memories of Molineux, full of old-gold gold-en oldies (also £16.99).

Football literature's equivalent of the independent rock labels are still out there proving that they do not need permission from the corporate culture. The Boys from up the Hill: An Oral History of Oxford United (Crowberry, £9.99), by Geron Swann and Andrew Ward, contains the first-hand accounts of players (Ron "The Tank" Atkinson) among them, managers, directors and fans of a village club's rise and rise. Jeff Kent, who collected a

similar anthology of anecdotes about his favourite club, has now compiled Port Valc Personalities: A Biographical Dic-tionary (£14.75 plus £1.65 P&P from Witan Books, 8 Nelson Crescent, Cotes Heath, via Stafford, ST21 6ST). Every player from 120 years is feahard-case who became a Pente-pily sell it in their shop.

Phil Shaw

book 96-97, edited by Mike Hammond (Sports Projects Ltd. £22.95), contains 1,120 pages and covers club football from as the international scene. The same company's Aston Villa: Double Winners 1896-97, edited by Bernard Gallagher (£5.95), takes a magnifying glass to a bygone age. No official tag in sight, but Villa, aware of both its historical significance

Fat cats creaming off the cash

From John Williamson Sir: Now that the fat cats of the Premier League are to receive even more money from Bass [Carling], it is time for the Nationwide League clubs to withdraw contact from them completely. The gulf between these greedy clubs and the other divisions is now so vast, that there is little to be gained pretending that they are the old

First Division. Most of the present First Diision clubs face financial ruin

sports letter

would need to invest heavily on players only to be relegated and left with inflated salaries that could not be paid on gates. Look at Manchester City and

the possible relegation of Sunderland and Middlesbrough. Millions of pounds are being spent on foreign players because "they are better value". So there is little money coming back to the lower leagues. Let them operate in their own vacuum. No relegation, no Leggue Cup and an FA Cup that consists of them and non-League clubs. Make the Vauxhall Conference the new Fourth Division and see how they like it.

We once had the finest football league in the world but these people seem intent on wrecking in the pursuance of profit. JOHN WILLIAMSON Alston, Cumbria.

Letters should be marked "For publication" and should contain daytime and evening phone numbers. They should be sent to Sports Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square London E14 5D. They may be shortened for reasons of space.

Hetherington signs three players from Eagles

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Gary Hetherington, the new Leeds chief executive, has returned to his former club. Sheffield Eagles, to sign three players. The young half-backs. Ryan Sheridan and Dean Lawford, plus the former Huddersfield loose forward, Anthony Farrell, are all joining Leeds for next year's Super League season.

Sheridan and Lawford were Super League's clubs' quest both products of Sheffield's successful junior scouting system. Their arrival will probably end Leeds' interest in Warrington's transfer-listed lestyn Harris.

Farrell, rather over-ambitiously, touted as "the new Ellery Hanley" in his younger days, has had his career so far blighted by injury, but Hetherington remains a firm admirer. The bearer of a famous Rugby League name will head the

for a higher profile next year with the appointment Colin Myler as the first chief executive of Rugby League Europe. Myler, born in Widnes and a member of a clan that includes numerous distinguished players. will be based in London. His

presence there may help to tap greater marketing opportunities. The First and Second Division clubs, which have recent-

ly formed a cohesive power field Cup.

bloc of their own, have also advertised for a general manager. In Sydney, the Australian Rugby League have made an even more significant appointment. Their new chief executive, replacing John Quayle, who resigned last month, is the Balmain president, Neil Whittaker.

Whittaker, 38, has had both sorts of education. He is a university graduate and a former hooker for Balmain in the Win-

Argentina ready *to show strength

Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWETT

Their amateur status may seem charmingly quaint in comparison to the unseemly race for riches in England, but the Argentinian tourists served notice yesterday that there will be nothing whimsical about their visit to Twickenham this weekend.

Hugely encouraged by their fiercely combative performance against a strong England A line-up at Northampton on Tuesday night, they have picked a side designed to stretch their hosts beyond the bounds of comfort in Saturday's Test.

Pedro Sporleder, their outstanding lock forward, rejoins the squad after a brief business visit to New York and teams up once more with the equally effective German Llanes in the second row; in front of them, the rugged props Roberto Grau and Mauricio Reggiardo will link up with the hooker Carlos Promanzio, who wins his fifth cap. According to the Pumas, that front five is capable of asking England almost as many questions as their outstanding predecessors posed at last year's World Cup in South Africa.

Promanzio replaces Federi-

Newbury's fourth-round Pilk-

ington Cup tie with Lydney on

Saturday has been postponed

after an outbreak of a bacteri-

al infection vesterday struck

doctor, Cliff Roberts, and New-

bury's medic, Keith Endersby.

inspected the players last night

after the ninth suspected victim,

second row Andy Duke, went

- The players, all forwards,

The Rugby Football Union's

down a ninth player.

lown with the illness.

Newbury game postponed

are suffering from the same Leicester, on Saturday week if

strain of staphylococcus bacte- they manage to beat Lydney.

ian player since Hugo Porta. Mendez has joined Bath and will not play international rugby in the immediate future while the World Cup props, Patricio Noriega and Matias Corral, are living in Australia and America respectively. But while the front row has changed completely, the engine room has disturbingly familiar look to it; Sporleder and Llanes were the men who caused England so much line-out hassle in that last encounter in Durban.

squad is underlined by the fact that only five of the side that performed so strongly at Franklins Gardens have made the Test side. There are no new caps, although the head coach, Jose Luis Imhoff, has made five changes to the side who went under against the Springboks last month. Most intriguing among them is the big-kicking outside-half, Gonzalo Quesada, who was brought into the team for this year's Pan-American Cup and scored 41 points in three outings against the United States, Uruguay and Canada. He has yet to taste defeat

The strength of the Puma

Argentina look like they will have to face Jason Leonard af-

ria, which brings the victim out

Terry Burwell, the Rugby di-

rector of the Division Four

South club said: "Postponing the

tie could cause us problems with

a fixture pile-up but we really

had no option. In all my years

in rugby, I have never come

their match with Worcester on

Saturday, face a fifth-round tie

with last year's runners-up.

Newbury, who postponed

across an incident like this."

co Mendez, the best Argentin- ter all. England's most capped defeat by Bath last weekend with a hamstring injury, has resumed training with the squad.

Meanwhile, Gary Teichmann admits the gloss has been taken off South Africa's World Cup triumph by their series defeat against New Zealand in the summer - but they intend to be at their best when they complete a punishing 13-Test programme by meeting Wales on Sunday in Teichmann, South Africa's

captain, and the coach, Andre Markgraaf, refused to accept it could be one international too far following successive 2-0 series triumphs over Argentina and France. "This will be our 13th international this year, but I don't think it is a question of us playing too many Test matches," Teichmann said.

Despite inevitable fatigue, South Africa are unchanged for the fifth successive Test. They include the World Cup players Andre Joubert, Joost van der Westhuizen and Ruben Kruger against Wales. Markgraaf believes this trip has helped settle South African rugby down. However physically demanding it may have been, we can y benefit from this tour," he said. "This has been our toughest-ever season, not made any easier by our standing as world

Champions."

ARGENTINA V England, Twickscham, Sedurdsyl: E Jurado (Rosario): 6 Camerdon (Buenos Ales), E Simone (BA), L Arbiza (BA, capt), D Albanese (BA); 6 Questade (BA), N Miranda (BA); R Grau (Cupd), C Promenzio (Rosario), M Regglardo (Castres, P), Sporteder (BA), 6 Esmes (BA), R Miratte (BA), P Bouza (Rosario), P Camerincia: (BA), R Miratte (BA), P Bouza (Rosario), P Camerincia: (BA), F Safer (Cordoba), M Sonizo (BA), O Hansan (Tucuman), R Perez (Rosario), F Garcia (BA), F Safer (Cordoba), M Sonizo (BA), O Hansan (Tucuman), R Perez (Rosario), Southa Arbiza, A Bouthert (Natial); J Senall (Natial), J Midder (Transvasa), H Le Roux (Transvasa), J Oliver (N Transvasa), H Honiball (Natial), J sen der Westhabent (M Transvasa), E Telechmann (Natial), R Kingler (N Transvasa), G Telchmann (Natial), R Kingler (N Transvasa), G Telchmann (Natial), R Kingler (N Transvasa), G Telchmann (N Transvasa), W Pyele (Natial), F van Heoden (Western Province), T van der Linde (Em (Mestern Province)), T van der Linde champions."



Darren Gough appeals unsuccessfully for the wicket of Mark Dekker in Bulawayo yesterday

Symonds opts for Australia

Cricket

Andrew Symonds' decision to pledge his future to Australia comes as a blow to English cricket in general and Gloucestershire in particular.

The 21-year-old all-rounder, orn in Birmingham but taken to Australia when he was 18 months old, settled the matter of his dual nationality by agree-ing to play for Australia A in tomorrow's match against the West Indies in Melbourne.

"I am an Aussie and always have been," Symonds declared. "I will play my cricket for Australia, so I will play on Friday. I love living in Australia. I love the lifestyle and I think I always will. The decision wasn't very tough for me because I have known in my heart that I've al-The move will disappoint

those who wanted to see with the West Indies captain, Symonds playing for England and it comes a year after he rejected a place in England A's tour of Pakistan. Gloucestershire will no longer

be able to field Symonds as an

overseas player's benth at Bristol. Gloucestershire were are contemplating life without their leading run-scorer of last season. "He was a major piece in our England-qualified player and, playing jigsaw for the future of

Courtney Waish, taking the one

Hick backed by Gooch

Graeme Hick cast aside by England, has received a massive pre-Christmas boost by being tipped to return to the international fold by the England selector Graham Gooch.

Hick has been omitted for the winter tours of Zimbabwe and New Zealand, and recently came in for strong criticism from the former England chairman of selectors, Ray Illingworth. But Gooch, one of the

favourites to replace Illingworth, said people writing off Hick's

Test career were being "foolish". Gooch said: "Nobody has an automatic right to be chosen for England, and just because

Graeme has not made it on to the winter tours doesn't mean that is the end of things for him England-wise. I think people who are saying 'that's his lot' at Test level

and 'he won't be able to get back' are being a little foolish. He is still only 30 and the best

Gloucestershire County Cricket Club," admitted their cricket secretary, Philip August. "He leaves a huge hole to fill." August added: "We spent

most of last season seeking assurances from Andrew about his playing future, and this is obviously disappointing.
"But we wish him well, Andrew is a lovely lad and a cracking cricketer, who just found

himself with two passports and in a pretty unerviable position." Symands, who scored 33 in the President's XI victory over West Indies in Canberra yesterday, could now be available as an overseas player for other counties, providing he is not selected

for Australia's Ashes tour party. Mike Gatting was pleased the player had finally made up his mind. "It's no surprise at all for me. I'm very glad he's made a de-

Ealham suffers broken finger

MYLES HODGSON reports from Brisbane England A 230

Queensland 154-4

England A look set to finish their Australia tour without Dean Headley and Mark Ealham, after both sustained injuries on vesterday's second day of their final tour match against Queensland here.

The Kent pair managed only 16 overs between them before withdrawing from the fray after tea, prompting the coach, Mike Gatting, to make his first appearance of the tour as a substitute fielder as Queensland took advantage of the lightweight attack to finish only 76 runs adrift on 154 for 4 after a second stoppage for bad light.

"Mark suffered a fracture in his index finger attempting a caught-and-bowled, so unfortunately he'll be out for a little Gatting said. "Dean's hip is a bit sore and we thought it was best in the long term if he came off and rested it."

The opener Troy Dixon seized on England's understrength attack to score 62 for Oueensland, but Craig White responded to the responsibility of becoming a strike bowler by dismissing Dixon and Jim Maher to finish with 2 for 27.

Earlier, Headley and Glen Chapple helped England add a valuable 60 runs to their overnight score with a spirited 32-run last-wicket partnership. and day of four, Quee

ENGLAND A - First Immings
M A Burcher c Cassell b Jackson
M P Vaughan c Barsby b Creeve
A McCarath c Law b Multer
C White c Seconde b Creevey Full: 1-8, 2-9, 3-39, 4-99, 5-114, 6-147, 7-164, 8-198, 9-201.

Booling: |Ader 18.3-6-42-2: 0 6: Prestyndge 12-2-45-1; Law 5 501 21-8-52-1 QUEENSLAND - First lines T J Doon to Vaughen b White T J Barsby low 6 Earliem ... J P Maher c Hegg b White ... S G Law c Chappe b Hollio M P Mots 700 cus

To bat: tW A Seccombe, S A Pres Creavey, P W Jackson, S A Mullor. Bowling: Headley 9-1-30-0; Chaople 13-4-33-0; Ealler 5-2-16-1; Giles 9-3-25-0; White 10-2-27-2; Holicale 8-5-20-1.

Tough test for Scotland

Richie Dixon, the Scotland Andy Reed has revealed the against complacency when they face Italy at Murrayfield on Saturday, despite the visitors' damaging defeat by England at Twickenham last month.

Dixon believes the Italians will provide his side with a row. said: "I've noticed there is play as well as France in terms of creating and using space. I've had a look at their sound and I think we can expect them to play different locks from those who appeared against England because they did not win enough possession at the line-out.

"Italy also have flair. They certainly troubled England in the second half when they scored three very good tries. And what is more they defended well. I would say Italy have developed their game on defence."

The Scotland coach has not ruled out the possibility of using substitutes. He added: "I never say never. We thought about making a substitution in the match against Australia, but in the and did not bother." Meanwhile, recalled lock

coach, has warned his side main difference in Scotland's had not seen that for a long time, preparations for international matches since his last Murrayfield game against France in 1994. Reed, who will play alongside his Wasps club partner Damian Cronin in the second not the mad panic to get the team prepared that there was in

"We now meet up on the Monday before the match and therefore have much more time to prepare ourselves properly. The intensity is just the same, but the approach is different." Dixon believes the rest and relaxation is vital to his side's new approach. "Quality rest is as important as quality work," he said.

Meanwhile, Matt Singer, Cambridge's two-try Varsity match-winner, could be a top player with Saracens next season if he wants to make rugby his day job. Singer twice scythed through Oxford's defence to make it a hat-trick of Bowring Bowl wins for Cambridge at Twickenham on Tuesday.

165 with Rahul Dravid (56) was

et against South Africa.

Tendulkar at mid-off.

INDIA - First funings 237 (S.R. Tendukar 61, W.Y. Raman 57, P.R. Adams 6-55)

SOUTH AFRICA - First finnings 177 (A hunt ble 4-71, 1 Smath 3-42).

the 4-71. 1 Seriam 3-421.

INDIA - Second Innings

Overregite 270 for 51

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P S Deavy o Kelelian h Adoms.

S Josh D Adoms

A P Pappor not out

Extress the first fluid:

Todal fire 7 dec. 126 organ)

Bounding De Villers 24-10-58-2 (20b): Plusen-er 25-7-72-2; McMMan 18-8-36-0, Conje 15-5-31-0; Adams 20-1-84-2; Sympu 26-2-101-1.

C) Cultinan run out
"W) Crarge c Tenduskar b Joshi
B to McAndan not out
10) Rechardson not out

Total (for 5, 63 overs) To bat I husener, P L Symon, P S De Villers, P R Adams.

Faft; 1-21 2-26 3 39 4-97 5-109.

Bowling (to date): Senath 11 4-15-1: Proped 9-1-24-1: Numble 16 7-17-1; Raptor 9-4-10-0; Arshi 18-5-52-1

Total (for 7 dec. 126 overs) _

Fail (conti: 6-357 7-385.

Fourth days India wan 1955

Twickenham day and the crowd Singer played a handful of

games for Saracens last season and the north London club's coach, Mark Evans, said: "He will challenge strongly for a first-team place for us, but it will be at full-back, which is his favourite position. He will not be knocking out Philippe Sella at centre just yet, but he is a gifted player, with the potential to

Singer put Cambridge ahead early in the match and then clinched the match with a score straight through the heart of Oxford's tacklers, while in between he landed an impressive

drop-goal.
"I know nothing about pro-fessional rugby. I am on a teaching course at the moment and I don't know whether to stay with teaching, combine that with rugby or go profes-

sional," Singer said. He is still only 24 and while the debate about centre and full-back in the England team goes on, the selectors might take It was an English centre dev-astating a defence on a big tre credentials at A-team level.

Ryder Cup cash to boost game

Golf

ANDY FARRELL

Profits from the Ryder Cup are to underwrite a new initiative to stop "the erosion of golf" as a leisure activity.

The Professional Golfers' Association is putting £100,000 towards the National Golf Week which will take place on April 21 to 27 next year. Sponsors will help fund free lessons for newcomers at centres around the country, some targeted specifically at women.

businessmen and juniors. "We have to take the initiative to promote the game and stop the erosion in the numbers taking up golf," said Sandy Jones, chief executive of the

"Interest in the game peaked in 1987 and in the last decade there has been no real growth. People say they are inhibited from coming to the game because it is technically difficult, expensive, time consuming and there is a 'snob' factor. It is a game of tradition with a per-ception of élitism."

While many members' clubs have full waiting lists, 30 per cent of proprietary clubs, many built in the wake of the Royal & Ancient's call for 700 more courses at the height of the golf boom in the 80s, have capacity for play. The figures, Jones said, are mirrored in America where 11 million took up the

game between 1988 and '93, but 10 million gave it up. Eighty per cent of newcomers gave up within the first year of playing. The National Golf Week has

the backing of Nick Faldo, who next week launches his own junior series, but not the four home unions. The amateur bodies did not take kindly to Jones recently saying that sticking a "private" sign outside golf clubs was inhibiting newcomers. "We spent two years trying

to convince people to come in on the idea," Jones said, "There are 23 bodies involved in the administration of golf in this country, but someone needs to take responsibility to promote the game. We have the support of the R&A."

Rodman suspended

asketbal

Dennis Rodman was suspended by the Chicago Bulls for two rames without pay for using bad language in criticising National Basketball Association officials in a television interview after Sunday's game in Toronto Raptors.

"Dennis' use of foul and abusive language and the embarrassment he caused the Chicago Bulls organisation by subjecting young children and loyal fans to his profane outburst cannot and will not be tolerated." said Bulls

vice-president Jerry Krause. "We condemn in every way what Dennis said and the words he used. This suspension, which will cost Dennis \$104,878

about our concern."

Rodman, known as much for his wild hair-styles, body piercings and cross-dressing off the court as he is for his outstanding rebounding misses Wednesday's game against Minnesota and Friday's game at New Jersey. In a statement issued in New

York, the NBA said it would not take any additional action against Rodman. In a diatribe after he was ejected from Sunday night's game, Rodman criticised both league officials and the NBA. He said NBA referees were being kept "in diapers" by the NBA Commissioner. David Stern.

Rodman was suspended by the NBA for six games last season after he head-butted an official during a game.

India on verge of securing victory in Test series

India 237 & 400-7 dec

South Africa 177 & 58-3

India's bowlers, inspired by Mohammed Azharuddin's unbeaten 163, carried their side to the brink of a first series victony over South Africa in the deciding Test in Kanpur vesterday.

South Africa, set a target of 461 to win, had slumped to 127 for 5 by close on the fourth day and face the virtual certainty of a 2-1 series defeat today. Azharuddin punished the

tourists' attack in the first session after starting the day 12 runs short of his century. He completed his 16th century in 5 Tests, and by the declaration had struck 25 boundaries and a six off Pat Symcox in a 288-ball stay. His sixth-wicket stand of

> TODAY'S NUMBER

80,000

The amount in pounds that their Filbert Street pitch from frost and ensure an uninterrupted flow of gate receipts.

Athletics The International Amateur Athletic Fed-

eration yesterday amounced the Japan-ese city of Maebash will host the 1999 World Indoor Championships. In a statement the IAAF said Moscow would stage next year's grand prix final,

Basketball

an Indian record for any wick-The Budweiser League side Manches-ter Grants have signed the 6th Sins West-em Samoan forward Franke Edwards, who has been released after everaging 16 points in his four games for Birm-ingham Bullets. The 26-year-old replaces American Kish Baker in the Games' squad. MBA Coliforn State 101 Tomorn 91: Adapta. India finally colled a halt at their lunch score of 400 for 7, setting South Africa a target never achieved by a side batting last in 120 years of Test crick-NBA: Colden State 101, Toronto 91; Adonto 83 Denver 88; Marmi 78 Claveland 74; New York 85 Washington 73; Housian 98 Mirmsota 94; Derron 93 Makapalee 85; Procedu 93 San Antonio 78; Utah 110 Indiana 95; Orlando 99 Portoni et. The tourists suffered an early blow when Gary Kirsten was trapped leg-before for seven by Javagal Srinath. Then Herschelle Gibbs was bowled by CLASSIC COLA CUP Semi-final second leg-handastic Eagles 84 (47) (Phelps 25; Balock 22; New 19) Sheffield Sharts 75 (33) (Cau-thom 19; Winters 16; Hames 12) (Sheffield Venkatesh Prasad for five and Darryl Cullinan, at the nonstriker's end, was run out for two by a direct hit from Sachin

FRIST UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL (Paiss)-abat; final day of four): Paisslan 256 and 123: England 230 and 150 for 9. England won by 3 wickets.

Football

Notts County's FA Cup third-round match with Aston Ville has been put back match with Aston Villa has been put back a day to avoid a clash with city rivels Nottingham Forest's home game with Irswich. The Meadow Laine game will now lick off on Sunday, 5 January, at noon. ASAM Curr Group R: Ion 3 (Name Baghen 12, Ali Dee 37, Khodowa Ato. 48) Suuti Araba 0; raq 4 40,8464 13, 50, Shhob 23, 60) The-land 1 Chaseman 26).

Spencer Prior, the Leicester central de-tender, has undergone surgery on a dam-aged cartiage which has been troubling him for some time. The former Norwich player delayed his operation until his side's current two-week break from action.

iand 1 (Chaterman 26).
TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Auto Windscreens Shield Northern Section first round:
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Huf 3 Chester 1; Rocherham 0 Bacterod 1; Scarborough 0 Notes County 1, Section 1; Scarborough 0 Notes County 1, Section 3: Commistig 10th 0 Colchestor 1; Lutino 2 Lington Onenty 1; Plymount 2 Bournemouth 0; Galingtom
1 Cartiff 2 (apr), Bell's Scottish League Premistr Divisions: Storing 1 St. Murren 1; Second Olivslots University 1; Second Olivslots Hambarn 0 Seminoscomur 2; Cycle 1 Sem-

cer D. Third Divisions Condentesath 1 Forter
J. Gall Vasachall Conference: Macciochet 0
Ndderminister 1. Lengue of Wales different
Langues Cup second round second lenguage
Abergstwych 1 Newtown 4 (agg. 2-5); Corman's
Quay 4 Berger Cay 1 (agg. 4-6); Lensentificad
1 Corney 0 (agg. 3-0); Phys 1 Holywell 0 (agg.
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1: Portadoun 1 German 1. Frant Divisions Banger 1 Language 12; Newy 1 Oragit 2. From Issurance Combination First Divisions Matheal 2
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reland's plans to stage the 2005 Ry-der Cup moved forward a step yester-day after talks were held between the country's Minister for Sport, Bernard Allen, and PGA European four cheefs led by executive director Ken Schoffeld. The two-hour meeting in Dutblin, which was also attended by the former Ryder Cup-player Des Smyth, left Schoffeld sug-gesting that Ireland would be well-favoured in its bid.

SPORTING DIGEST NRIL: Detrot O Edinonton O (ot); NY Islanders 8 Phoenix 2: Philipplephis 5 Florida 4; New Jer-sey 5 Toronto 2; Calgary 5 Ottawa 5 (ot); Pitts-burgh 5 Los Angeles 3. EASTERN CONFERENCE NORTHEAST DAVISION W L TOF GAPTS

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Rugby Union Stand-off Gareth Hughes, who lost his first team place at Saracens to the former Australian international Michael Lynagh, has signed for Worcester.

Peter Goss escaped lightly yesterday when his yacht, Aqua Quorum, suffered a knock-down in freezing temperatures in the southern ocean as he heads eas counts are word race, the 35-year-old Comishman, who was asleep at the time, had to take great care righting the yacht which had also changed tack through the wind, leaving his swinging keel locked on the "wrong" side. After two hours the 50-footer, which is the most southerly in a fleet schedy rightfulling through seein a fleet slowly dwindling through gear damage, was successfully righted with just two battens in the mainsail broken.

Christoph Augin still leads while Britain's second competitor, Tony Bullimore, is 12th and has had to run under bare

poles in severe weather. Enjoying, for a while, less testing con-ditions are the fourteen yachts going the other way between Cape Hom and New Zeatand in the BT Challenge, Mile Gold-ings' Group 4 continues his established lead while the troubled Courtaulds in-

SNOW REPORT - in association with Thomas Cook Ski Direct

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

Rugby Union

Basketball 7-UP TROPHY: Playboy TV Leopards v Con-verse Crystal Palace (7.0).

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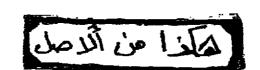
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Phil Shaw reviews Christmas books for the football-minded, page 28



Gough enjoys the rough and the smooth

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Bulawayo England 334; Matabeleland

Sixteen wickets fell yesterday at the Bulawayo Athletic club, five of them to Darren Gough who bristled and bustled, as Matabeleland ended the day on 181 for 9, four runs short of the follow-on. But if Gough's haul rep-resented a high spot in this final dress rehearsal for England, the fact that seven of the day's dismissals belonged to the tourists, means that several significant lines are still being flutfed.

However, in terms of runs and wickets, progress is undoubtedly being made, and several of the England's cricketers no longer look as if they are tangled up in winter cobwebs.

Mind you, even for bowlers like Gough and Andy Caddick. who on vesterday's evidence look as if they have started to fire cluded - there must still be a lingering doubt as to how much is

If the truth he known, most of their order looked as if they were batting two places too high, and two many loose balls went unpunished to give a fair picture of England's achievements with the ball.

Despite that, Gough tried -and often succeeded - to bowl as fast as possible and if his boundless enthusiasm did not always make up for his extravagana pursuit of the wonder ball and its associated high run tariff, his

third spell on a stiflingly hot day, was admirably wholehearted. Certainly, the luck which de-serted Andy Caddick whose two early wickets at last represented a quality spell with the new hall, was certainly with the Yorkshireman, and on another day, two wicket-taking long hops could have brought eight runs instead. However, he clean bowled two tailenders as well as removing Manesh Ran-chod with a snorter that flicked

a protective glove, first ball. "It takes time to get into a rhythm, and that eight-over spell at the start got me into a bit of attributable to the opposition, a groove," he said afterwards, who even on a good day, are not "There was a bit of carry and I

likely to provide more than two gave it a hundred per cent. I got Bulawayo scoreboard

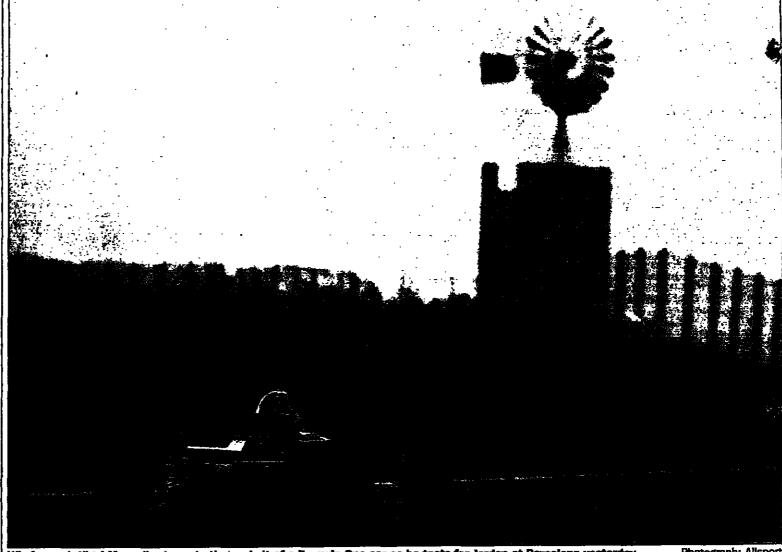
the ball through and was re-warded with five wickets. Which is not always the case." A break he probably feels is deserved anyway, after spending the whole of last summer taking 67 wickets at 22.9 for Yorkshire.

It almost certainly means that Gough will be bowling in the first Test, probably alongside Alan Mullally and Caddick, who has now bowled himself into contention ahead of Ronme Irani: the Essex all-rounder's chance to play a part in the first Test evaporating when he scored just five, after tamely chipping Mpumelelo Mbangwa to midon. It was not the only soft dis-missal. as John Crawley, a second stylish half-century under his belt, watched the Eng-

land innings fall apart. But, if the batting showed familiar frailties once again (only Knight, Crawley and Stewart seem settled) the fielding is also in need of a lift, and had England been able to catch as well as a top Test side, Matabeleland may well have struggled to make three figures.

Two chances, as well as several half chances were spilled though no individual was quite as culpable as John Rennie, the home team's captain, who capped three dropped slip catches with second over duck skying an optimistic pull shot off Caddick to short mid-on. Of his side, only the wicket-

keeper. Wayne James, managed to score runs freely. However, as most of his 62 was scored by slashes high over slip due to a diet of long-hops, his true abilities may not have been glimpsed. Eventually his demise came when he prodded a return catch to Phil Tufnell, who repeated the feat when Heath Streak did the same two overs later.



Mansell back on the road again

Motor racing IAN GORDON

reports from Barcelona

Nigel Mansell insisted last night that he is not a Formula One has-been and believes he can

The former world champion successfully came through a testing session with Jordan-Peugeot in Spain yesterday 19 months after his previous comeback ended in an ignominious departure, Mansell was not embarrassed ie driver Ralf Schumacher even though the brother of the former world champion Michael had clocked up thousands of miles in the car already.

The 43-year-old was just three-tenths of a second slower than Schamacher, the leaving team's owner, Eddie Jordan, astonished at how quickly he had

got up to pace.
"I have always had belief in my ability," Mansell said. "I didn't have much to regain as I have never lost it. Ralf is a very committed driver he's very quick on the pedal. But I got Photograph, page 29 by Jordan's highly rated rook- close to him today as he has

ing. If you haven't got it, all you do is end up in the wall on the first lap. The proof of the pudding is in the clock.
"It's been in my blood for 20

years. You don't forget it. The biggest thing was the upsurge in speed I have not done over 200mph in anything since the last time I drove a Formula One

und was the brakes – they are most out of scar.

I think that surprised a few most out of scar.

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I think that surprised a few most out of scar.

The fantastic thing with a lot longer to get into the factor of the fantastic thing with a lot longer to get into the fantastic thing with a longer to get into the longer t found was the brakes - they are most out of great and phenomenal now. They are so "I think that surprised a few much better that you can leave people it showed the commityour braking much later.

computer technology is you can analyse every aspect of the circuit. You can see where you are doing quite well and areas where you're not."

usell, the third most successful driver in Formula One history with 31 wins, added; "It took me a few laps to get up to pace.

"Raif did 30 laps yesterday
with a best time of one minute 26 seconds. On my third lap today I did 1:24 after two years al-

You have to build a relationship with a car, but you don't do that in just over 49 laps. But I will build on what happened

tomorrow and be quicker." Mansell, whose last com-petitive three was in the Span-ish Grand Prix in May when he ended his two-race comeback wiff McLaren by parking the car up, believes he will be back behind the wheel

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Parkes may stay for full season

Sven-Goran Eriksson has agreed to join Blackburn Rovers as their new manager - but he cannot say when. The Swedish couch will accept a contract worth close to film a year in wages and bonuses from Jack Walker's ambitious club.

However, Eriksson is staying with Sampdona until the Italun club have found a successor - they may keep him to his contract for the rest of the senson.

Erikson wants the Blackburn job badly and visited the club in

time, when he also found out how much they were willing to pay. Blackburn want some kind of commitment from Eriksson in case he is tempted by a rival club, with Lazio and Borussia Mönchengladbach among his

Sources close to highly respected Eriksson claimed last night that he has said he will come as soon as possible, but Samndaria want to dictate the timing of his departure. Eriksson refused to comment on Italian press reports that he has already handed in his notice, but

rather than if he comes to Everton at White Hart Lane in stitches in until after the game Blackburn, Rovers are happy with that situation at the moment, as caretaker manager out of relegation trouble and they would settle for that fate in a troubled season.

The Tottenham striker Chris Armstrong has been ruled out for up to six weeks, and faces an operation on Monday after being told his damaged ankle will not respond to treatment. Armstrong, Spurs' record signing at £4.5m, has had trou-ble for some time with his an-

kle, which he badly aggravated it is now only a matter of when in the goalless draw against

Angust when he was carried off before half-time.

Armstrong has made sever-little inflamed, but I don't want

Tony Parkes is steering the side all comeback attempts and re- to miss this match." mains Spurs' joint top scorer this season with six yoals in 15 games, but lasted only the first half against Liverpool in his last appearance eight days ago, and now the problem has been identified as tendonitis. The Sunderland manager

Peter Reid is trying to call off the purchase of the Israeli striker Ronen Harazi because of medical problems. The Roker Park club have discovered that Harazi has been playing with a broken foot after he went

The Northern Ireland man-

ager, Bryan Hamilton, is hoping that the Newcastle winger Keith Gillespie will declare himself fit to play in Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Albania at Windsor Park on Saturday. Gillespie suffered a groin injury in Newcastle's goalless draw at Nottingham Forest on Monday, and the Blackpool forward, James Quinn, has been called in to the squad as cover.

Ronaldo's £25m deal

earn him £25m, making him the

lan have reportedly shown interest in signing the 20-year-old striker, but, according to newspaper reports in Spain yesterday, Ronaldo's spectacular new contract will contain a clause that will deter any potential bidder. The clause states that Ronaldo. seen as potentially Brazil's greatest player since Pele, can only leave the Nou Camp if the interested chib comes up with a

mere £50m for the fee.
"The business is closed," said discuss the terms of the deal.

Ronaldo, the latest Brazilian although he could not prevent vidual prize, which Weah won sensation, is set to sign a 10-year his side losing their grudge last year, will be announce-contract with Barcelona that will match away to Real Madrid last ment in Lisbon on 20 January. highest paid player in the world.

Manchester United and Mi-erning body, has confirmed a es have voted for their top timee players in the 1996 Player of the Year poll with Newcastle's Aian Shearer, Ronaldo and Milan's George Weah licading the list. The winner of the world game's premier indi-

weekend.

Fifa, world football's governing body, has confirmed a record-breaking move to St James' Park thrust him into the international specific Weah who will collect Fila's Fa prize for helping to Liberia in the World Cup despite the internecine fighting in the country, helped guide Milan to the Italian league title.



quarter-linals, but fate was far

from kind when the draw was

While Liverpool could ap-

proach the prospect of the Nor-wegian club, SK Brann, in the

last eight of the European Cup-Winners' Cup with some confi-

dence, Newcastle were paired

with the French First Division

leaders, Monaco, in a tie their

manager Kevin Keegan de-

scribed "as tough as they come".

James' Park saw off Metz, who

deserved better than a 3-1 ag-

gregate defeat, but the booking

he got for fiving his shirt on a

corner post in celebration en-

sures he will miss the first leg

of the quarter-final on Tyneside

on 4 March . Monaco, who in-

Two goals from Asprilla at St

made in Geneva yesterday.

cut out water-channels (4) Exerce bird is found around British Isles (4)

It! So long as letters of gold

stamp (5) 11 Base English article used by French - crazy (9) 12 Man in the outskirts of

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14 Facts bottled up, in the classic way? (2, 4, 7) 17 Some day my prints will

his customers? (4, 9) 31 Woman in yelkra getting into police car (7)

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dish to university (5) 26 River Plate estuary purch blocked (4) 27 Rest until we negotiate bar-

DOWN An Arabic style that's

against all the rules? (8) Italian's put in a French tuse (5) He's sceptical, but will get involved in studying Welsh poet, 15, 61

His uncle and sisters have appeared on stage (7) Ring secret agent ()

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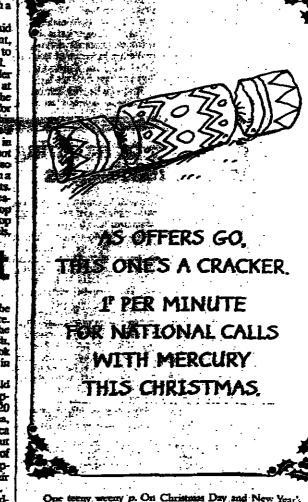
ence in Europe, great players, and heat Hamburg quite convincingly in the last round. We'll need to play better at home than we did against the Metz and we know we can do that: If we play the way we are capable of, we

can go all the way.
"You must believe you can beat anyone. Having the first clude the Scotland and former game at home makes it slight-

Paris St-Germain and Bendica went into the hat as well. But they were paired with Braun, of Bergen, who entered the Cup-Winners' Cup, traving lost their domestic final to Rosenborg. Brans defeated PSV Eindhaven in the last round but are

described, even by Norwegians, as ordinary. Then again, there was nothing remarkable about the Danes of Brondby last season and they defeated Liverpool in the Uela Cup. "We're reasonably pleased." Roy Evans, the Liverpool man-

ager, said. "At least we've avoided the bigger teams. But there's been a big improvement in Scandinavian football over the last few years and we always find them to be organised, strong, fit and difficult to best."



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